Gov't troops kill 15 Abu bandits in Basilan

STORY ON PAGE A2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2001 ★ 44 PAGES 3 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 310 ₱15

US jets continue to pound Kabul

KABUL—Pounding target after target, US bombs rocked Kabul and the eastern city of Jalalabad on Monday after US President George W. Bush rebuffed a top Taliban leader's offer to negotiate the surrender of suspected terrorist Osama bin Laden.

Daylight raids opened with jets streaking

US JETS/ A14

Travel firms, DOT 'never say die'

SEE THE PHILIPPINES! AT BARGAIN PRICES!!!

BY C. YAMSUAN

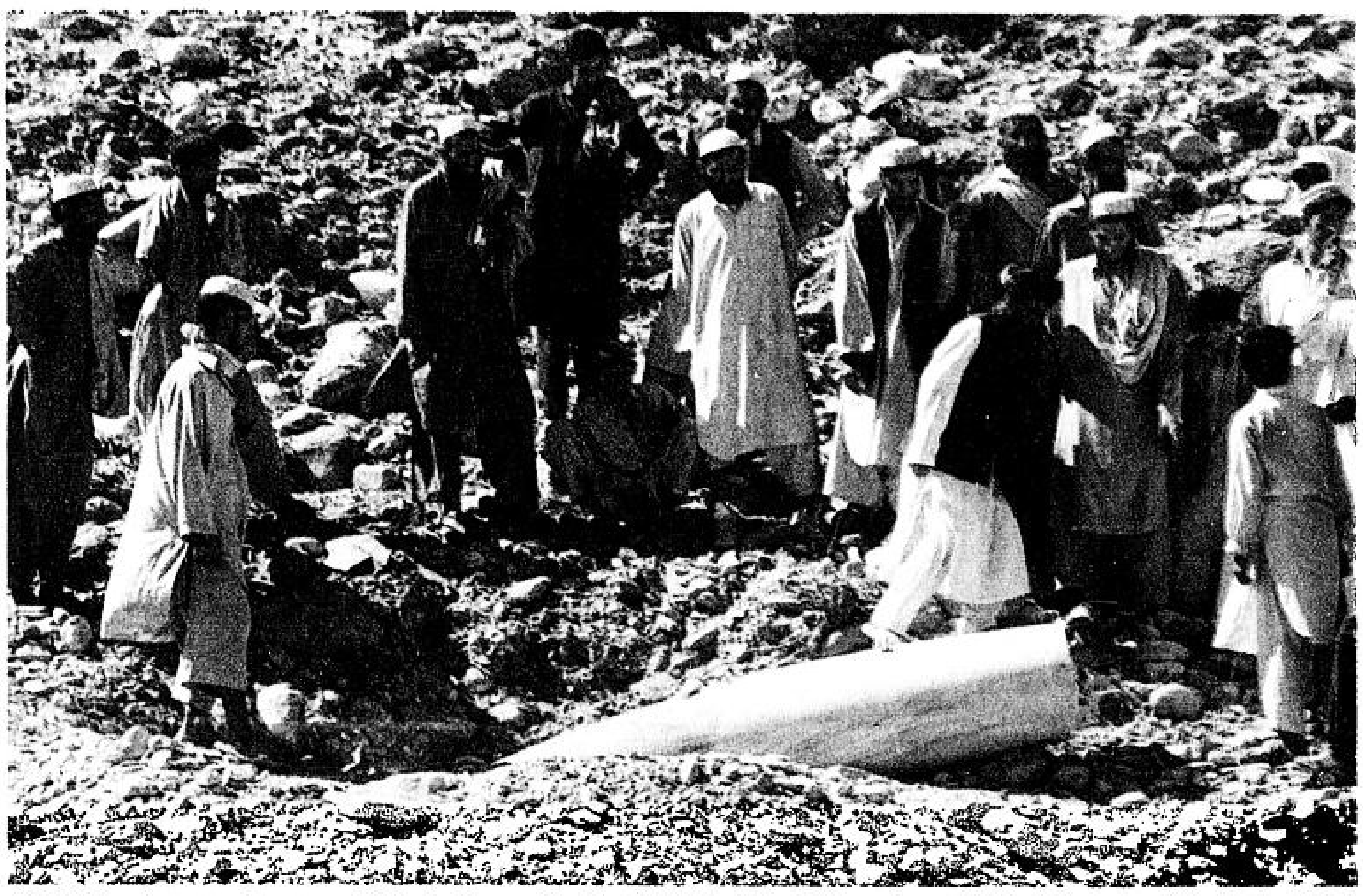
IN the never-say-die battle for tourists, Philippine travel agencies are offering huge discounts and value-for-money promotions.

The Department of

TRAVEL/ A14

US missed chance to kill Taliban chief

Armed CIA plane sighted Omar; top brass hesitated



AFGHANS gather around an unexploded missile near the city of Jalalabad. The Taliban rulers said 200 civilians were killed in the US-led strikes on a village near Jalalabad. AFP

NEW YORK—An unmanned US plane armed with missiles had the Taliban supreme leader on its sights on the first night of the bombing raids on Afghanistan, but legal officials of the US military refused to authorize an air strike.

According to the Oct. 22 issue of The New Yorker magazine, US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld was so infuriated by the veto of an air strike on a building outside Kabul where Mullah Mohammad Omar was hiding.

The article, written by Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporter Seymour Hersh, said a Predator reconnaissance aircraft sighted a convoy of cars and trucks carrying Omar as he was fleeing the Afghan capital on the night of Oct. 7.

The report said the Central Intelligence Agency that was in control over the aircraft did not have the authority to fire its two anti-tank Hellfire missiles under the rules of engagement.

So the CIA requested an air strike on a building where Omar and some 100 guards had taken cover.

But the report, quoting unnamed intelligence sources, said Gen. Tommy R. Franks, chief of the Central Command in Florida, vetoed the attack on legal grounds.

According to the article, Franks told the CIA that the Judge Advocate General (JAG), the military's legal branch, "doesn't like it, so we're not going to fire.".

The article said the Predator was ordered instead to fire a missile at the vehicles in front of the building in the hope that Omar would come out to take a look.

The report said some vehicles were obliterated but nobody

US MISSED/ A14

TWO Australian emergency workers carry a bucket suspected to contain toxic material outside the Herald Sun newspaper building in Melbourne. AFP

DOH advisory: Be extra careful, take a long bath

BY ARMAND NOCUM AND NORMAN BORDADORA

HEALTH Secretary Manuel Dayrit yesterday advised people to be extra careful in opening their mail and to decontaminate themselves by bathing with soap and water for 15 minutes if they get exposed to anthrax—an infectious disease caused by the bacteria bacillus anthracis.

They should also send their clothes and "suspect mail" to Department of Health (DOH) laboratories.

Dayrit issued the advisory as the DOH put all government hospitals and health centers on heightened alert for possible anthrax cases in the country following the anthrax scare in the United States.

Dayrit said he also issued a similar advisory to private medical organizations, including the Philippine Medical Association, the Philippine Society for Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, and the Philippine Pediatrics Society.

The health secretary disclosed that President Macapagal-Arroyo, who had expressed concern about the spread of anthrax, directed him on Sunday to monitor any cases of the disease in the country.

The anthrax scare started after a newspaper photo editor in Florida died of the disease. Nine

DOH/ A14

Anthrax fear sweeps globe: It's bioterrorism–US

FILE photo of Russian children being trained to react to chemical and biological attack in Kineshma, Russia, in 1999. GETTY IMAGES

NEW YORK—Fears of biological attacks shook countries across the globe yesterday after three new cases of anthrax exposure were revealed here and top US officials admitted that the country was facing a bioterrorist onslaught.

Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson said it was clear that the 12 people who were exposed to the deadly anthrax bacterium were victims of bioterrorism.

"(T)here's no question it's bioterrorism. It's a biological agent. It's terrorism, it's a crime," he said on CNN Late Edition.

Thompson however said no link had been established between the outbreak and the al-Qaida network of Osama bin Laden.

Attorney General John Aschroft was more direct, saying that while there was no proof, there was "real suspicion" that the scare over the bacterium was linked to Bin Laden.

"It's pretty clear to me from the prevention side that as a policy, we should consider the potential that it is linked," he said in an interview with CBS.

But a representative of Afghanistan's Taliban rulers said the United States should not focus on Bin Laden's group in its probe into the anthrax outbreak or the real culprits might get away.

ANTHRAX/ A14

Politicians on police drugs list

PNP chief: We have more suspects, the investigation is not yet closed

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA, MARTIN P. MARFIL AND DELFIN T. MALLARI JR.

POLITICIANS other than the municipal mayor, who was arrested in connection with the seizure of P1-billion worth of *shabu* (methamphetamine hydrochloride) in Real, Quezon, are being investigated for possible involvement in drug trafficking.

"We have politicians. Never mind whether they are councilors, congressmen or senators. But we have other politicians (on the list). They are suspects," said Chief Supt. Domingo Reyes, head of the police command in Southern Luzon.

He made the statement after Panukulan Mayor Ronnie T. Mitra and several others were presented to the media at Camp Crame.

Mitra, along with Chinese national Willie Yao, Ruel Dequialla and driver Javier Morilla, was caught Saturday while trying to smuggle in 498 kilos of shabu using a government ambulance and a Starex van.

The shipment was dropped on the shores of Panukulan town where it was packed in bags of one kilo each.

"This came from China, delivered by boat then dropped off for repacking," PNP chief Leandro Mendoza told reporters.

"We have more suspects, the investigation is not yet closed," he said.

Interior Secretary Jose Lina said follow-up operations were under way.

"Reports are being verified. We cannot discuss these because operations are going on," Lina told the INQUIRER.

Asked if other officials of Panukulan town could be involved in drug trafficking, Lina said revealing that information could sabotage operations.

Lina said the incident proved that narco-politics, a specter raised by the recent Senate hearings on the alleged involvement of Sen. Panfilo Lacson in illegal drug trade, had become a grim reality.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez shared Lina's observation.

Perez said the arrest of Mitra and the Chinese suspect proved that "narco-politics is already a danger existing in the Philippines.

"This is the biggest haul and the Department of Justice will do its best to obtain an early prosecution and conviction of all parties concerned," Perez said.

Ambulances on the road without patients will now be "double-checked" to

POLITICIANS/ A4

DENNIS SABANGAN

MAYOR Ronnie Mitra, of the island town of Panukulan in Quezon province, is presented to the media as the prime suspect in the P1-billion shabu smuggling attempt.

APEC SUMMIT

Common stand against terrorism on rocky ground

SHANGHAI—Senior officials meeting yesterday in China's commercial capital have agreed on most issues preparatory to the coming leaders' summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, but formulating a common position on combating terrorism might prove to be rocky.

A draft declaration on terrorism, written by Washington, has been circulated in advance to the 21 Apec member-nations for adoption when their leaders meet in Shanghai on Oct. 20-21. But the governments of Indonesia and Malaysia have expressed unease over the US-led retaliation against Afghanistan's ruling Taliban for the Sept. 11 attacks in New York and Washington.

There were also rumblings of concern from several Asia-Pacific countries, including host China and Japan, about the Apec forum's increasing focus on terror instead of economic issues at a time when the region is suffering its worst economic downturn in decades.

Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri, who leads the world's most populous Muslim country, criticized the US-British air raids publicly for the first time Sunday.

"Whoever commits terror must be punished," she said in a speech at a mosque. "However, the search for and the bringing to justice of perpetrators of terror or those parties who harbor them must be in accordance with law that is generally acceptable."

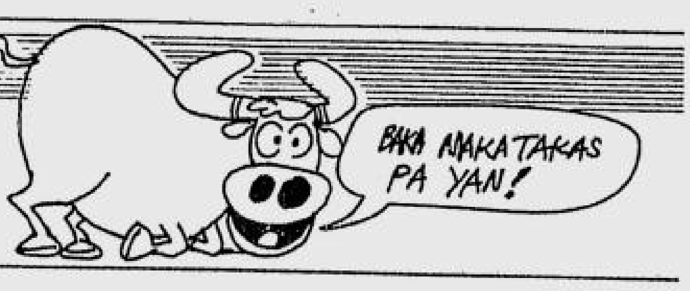
She added: "It is unacceptable that someone, a group, or even a government—reasoning that they are searching for perpetrators—attack a people or another country for whatever reason. Blood cannot be cleansed with blood."

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad has already called for the United States to stop its military strikes on Afghanistan.

In Manila, President Macapagal-Arroyo is hanging tough on the Philippines' all-out support to the

COMMON/ A15

Second FRONT PAGE


BAKA MAKATAKAS PA YAN!

ON THE RUN

15 Abu bandits slain

By Julie Alipala-Inot
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ISABELA CITY—Fifteen suspected members of the Abu Sayyaf rebel-cum-terrorist group were killed in a clash with government troops Saturday night, the military said here yesterday.

Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, Southern Command chief, said the bodies of the slain terrorists were found in separate shallow graves in Lantawan town, Basilan.

Cimatu said more rebels were killed in clashes with the military two weeks ago.

"Our rangers could not stand the stench," Cimatu said, referring to the operation to retrieve the bodies.

The military's claim of Abu Sayyaf casualties was confirmed by rescued hostage Joel Guillo, who served as a "medic" to the wounded terrorists during his captivity.

Guillo said that from the rebels' strength of at least 150 in May, the recent clashes with the military, particularly the major encounter on Oct. 7, slashed their numbers to about 110.

He added that in nine encounters with the military between June 2 and Sept. 14, a total of 18 bandits were killed.

Cimatu said the military operations now on their second week have "extremely pressured" the Abu Sayyaf.

"We expect fierce contact with the rebels within 24 hours," he added, without elaborating.

Cimatu said air strikes would no longer be necessary to soften the terrorists' position as ground troops are closing in on them.

Soldiers from the 11th, 77th, 10th and 1st Scout Ranger Battalions, the Centurions and the Counter-Terrorist Force now surround the bandits in Barangays Lumbang, Balawatin and Makiri in Lantawan, Cimatu said.

"Our troops are now in full force. The military is in better control. The Abu Sayyaf are very, very weak, *parating puyat, walang gamot, walang pagkain* (lack sleep, have no medicines and food) and are always on the run," Cimatu said.

After months spent chasing the slippery group in the tropical jungle, government forces made contact with the main body of the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan two weeks ago.

Thirty-one rebels have been killed, 25 wounded and three captured so far, according to an Agence France Presse report.

Eight Filipino hostages held by the bandit group have also escaped. The American couple, missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham, and nine local captives remain in rebel hands.

"This is a result of the learning curve," said Armed Forces spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan. "It shows our troops are getting better and more familiar with the terrain and the enemy is getting weaker."

Adan said there was also increased cooperation from civilians in Basilan. "Some of them got the rewards for the capture of Abu Sayyaf terrorists," he said, referring to the P1 million and P5 million prizes on the heads of the terror groups' members and officers, respectively.

A team of United States military advisers is due in the Philippines to train and equip local troops hunting the Abu Sayyaf.

At the same time, the government has asked the Securities and Exchange Commission to start sifting through its files to identify companies and organizations with links to the Abu Sayyaf, as a first step to freezing or seizing the assets of suspected terrorists.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the administration has asked the SEC to examine certain corporations it refused to identify to see if known members of the Abu Sayyaf were listed as directors, incorporators or officers.

Certain Muslim organizations and groups are believed to have links with the Abu Sayyaf. Camacho said the government effort is meant to curb terrorism and should not be misconstrued as harassment of Muslims.

"We have asked the SEC to check the corporations and see if any Abu Sayyaf members sit as directors or officers," said the finance secretary who returned yesterday from the US where he met with Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill and State Department officials. *With Clarissa S. Batino and an AFP report*

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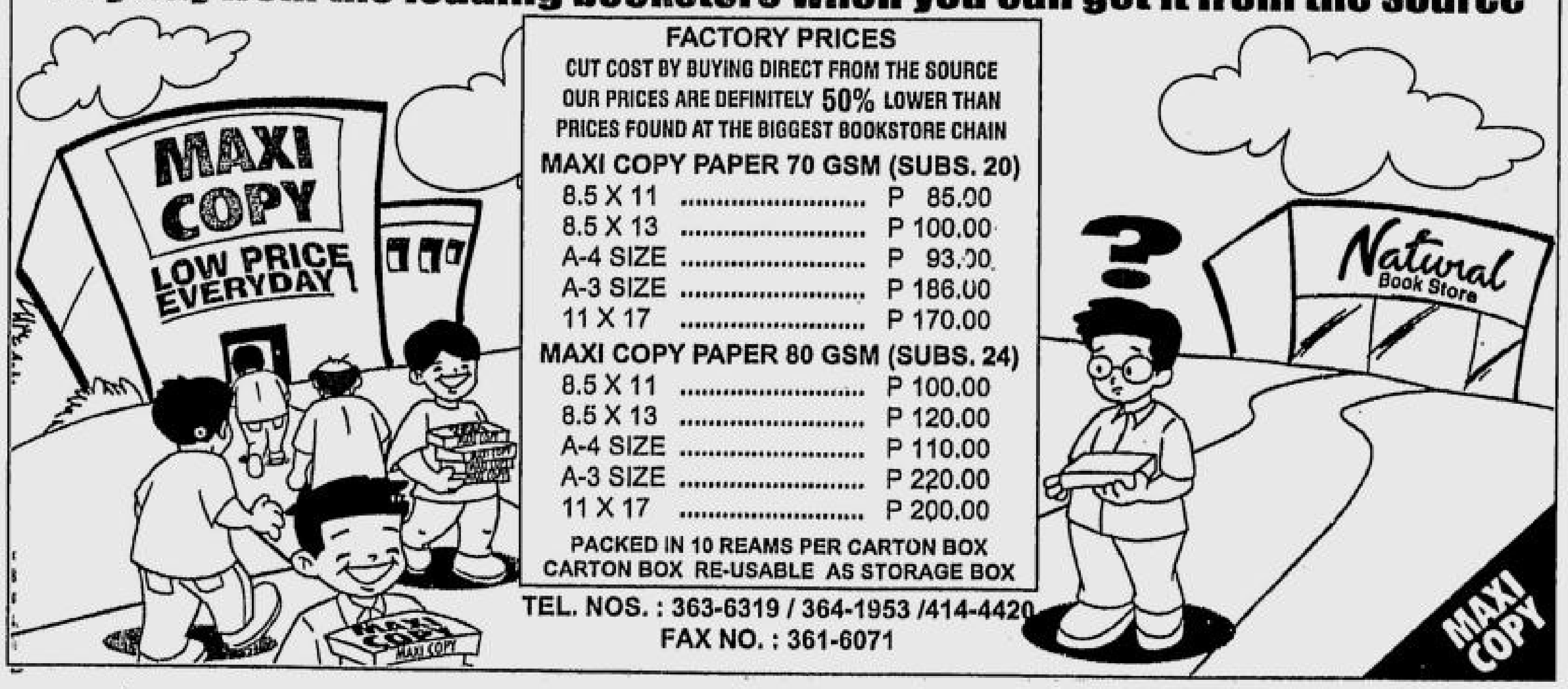
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Stop the rescue, US hostage pleads with gov't

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL

AMERICAN hostage Martin Burnham has pleaded with the government to halt the military operations against the Abu Sayyaf and start negotiations with the terror group to secure the release of their captives, "otherwise we would be killed."

Burnham, who with his wife Gracia and 19 others was abducted by the Abu Sayyaf from a Palawan resort on May 27, made the appeal over a radio program yesterday after he was allowed to speak by his captors.

"We would like to send a message to the (Macapagal) government to please stop the rescue attempts because our lives are often in danger," Burnham said.

"Unlike the local hostages, it is impossible for us to escape. I'm always in the eye of the group. I am always asked to run errands like fetching water but it is impossible for me to escape... I'm always tired..." he said.

Abu Sayyaf leader Abu Sabaya, who also spoke on the radio, likewise appealed for a halt to military operations and the start of negotiations with the government.

"Th military has to be pulled out of Basilan so we can move out. How else can there be negotiations?" Sabaya said, speaking in Filipino.

He said he wanted negotiations with the government to begin immediately "as every hour was important."

Sabaya also said they would prefer former Malaysian senator Sairin Karno and Yussuf Hamdan to be part of the negotiating team.

He added they were willing to accept anyone appointed for the government side, except for the present negotiator whom he named as Roland Sarmiento.

"I hope the ransom for Martin and Gracia is being prepared. If they (government) are sincere, this could be settled amicably," Sabaya said.

The rebels issued a chilling warning that President Macapagal-Arroyo would be "bringing the cadavers" of the Burnhams, both Christian missionaries, to Washington DC next month unless the military offensive is called off.

"We will execute Martin and Gracia if they do not stop this rescue operation," Sabaya said over dxRZ radio.

The President, who is leaving on a visit to Washington from Nov. 18 to 20, has said she will not negotiate with the Abu Sayyaf, whose kidnapping spree has embarrassed the government.

More than 5,000 troops have been deployed to hunt down the rebels hiding in the jungles of Basilan island.

The troops scored tactical successes in the past week, forcing the rebels into a jungle area in the western part of Basilan and rescuing at least eight Filipino hostages.

"If President Macapagal wants to have a successful visit to the US, she should stop this military rescue operation because if this continues she would be bringing with her the cadavers of Martin and Gracia and this would be very embarrassing," Sabaya said.

Over the radio, an emotional Burnham said he and his wife had lost weight and were weak from months of living in the bush.

He said the likelihood of their being executed was high "if things do not go according to their desire."

"The message from the Abu Sayyaf is that Americans everywhere are in danger. We have been targeted because we are Americans," Burnham said, his voice quivering.

Burnham said he was wounded by a grenade blast in one rescue attempt and his wife's feet were swollen with blisters. He said it was "impossible" for them to escape because unlike the Filipino captives they were kept tied even in the middle of artillery fire.

"We alone would be killed and our children orphaned," Burnham said.

He greeted his daughter Mindy in the United States, who will be celebrating her birthday this week. "This is our first opportunity to send them news that we are alive and well."

The missionary couple are being held with nine other Filipinos.

The skeletal remains of a third American, Guillermo Sobero, were recovered last week, more than three months after the Abu Sayyaf said they beheaded him as an "independence day" gift to Macapagal.

The military will continue its assault on the Abu Sayyaf until all the hostages are rescued, Malacañang said yesterday in the face of the bandits' renewed threats.

"The reason the military is there is because of the hostages. As long as the Abu Sayyaf have the hostages, the military offensive will continue," National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said in a press briefing.

Golez added the negotiation "lines are closed" if the Abu Sayyaf will insist on conditions before releasing the remaining hostages.

He asked the media not to give airtime to Sabaya and other rebel leaders.

For her part, President Macapagal said in a statement: "I am again appealing to the Abu Sayyaf. Spare the lives of the innocent. The Burnhams have spent their lives in the service of the Almighty and do not deserve to be pawns in a propaganda war. To harm defenseless people is not only an act against Islam but an act of cowardice," she said.

Ms Macapagal said she has instructed negotiator William Castillo to "intensify efforts to communicate" with the Abu Sayyaf and convince them to release their hostages.

Golez said he is personally in "close coordination" with American officials to bring them up to date on the military rescue operations. *With Dona Z. Pazzibugan and AFP reports*

Gloria now favors death for kidnappers

BY DONA PAZZIBUGAN

IN A POLICY turnaround, President Macapagal-Arroyo has said she would uphold all death sentences for convicted kidnappers.

Ms Macapagal had said, shortly before assuming office last January, that there would be no executions during her term.

She was accused then of acting unilaterally to repeal the Death Penalty Law.

The apparent change in policy came about because of a clamor from the Chinese-Filipino community and business groups for the national leadership to act decisively to put an end to the vicious kidnappings and murder of mainly ethnic Chinese victims.

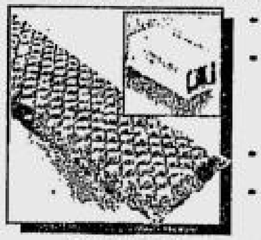
"The President wants to change this policy (of not implementing the death penalty) with regard to kidnapping, because the kidnappings have become very brutal and affect not only mainly Chinese-Filipino but also our economy," Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said in a news briefing.

The new policy was announced during a luncheon meeting between the President and leaders of the Chinese-Filipino community yesterday.

The President also announced six other initiatives that her administration has made to fight kidnapping:

- Deputizing Bantay Bayan volunteers under the Peace and Order Councils as "special Cafgu (Citizens Armed Force Geographical Unit)" who will be authorized to carry firearms and make citizen's arrests in kidnap cases.
- Creation of a coordinating center under the National Anti-Crime Commission (NACC) for all intelligence on kidnapping syndicates.
- Allocation of P100 million reward system for information on kidnappers.
- Accelerating criminal proceedings against PNP and AFP personnel suspected of involvement in criminal groups.
- Allocation of P20 million from the intelligence fund and the facilities of the former Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force and a presidential helicopter for the use of the NACC.
- Setting up an emergency response and anti-kidnapping command center in Chinatown.

The President yesterday instructed the justice department to speed up the appeals process for the Supreme Court to affirm the death sentence on 95 convicted kidnappers.



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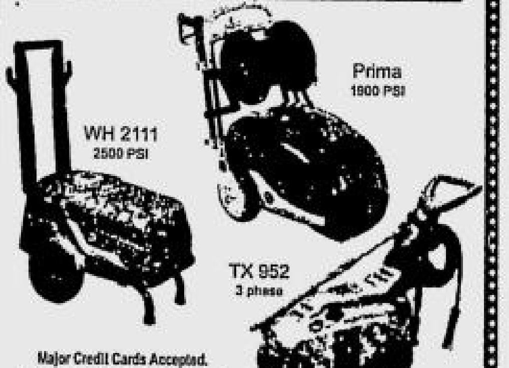

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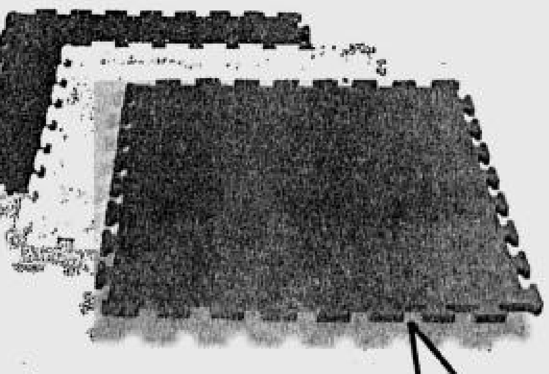

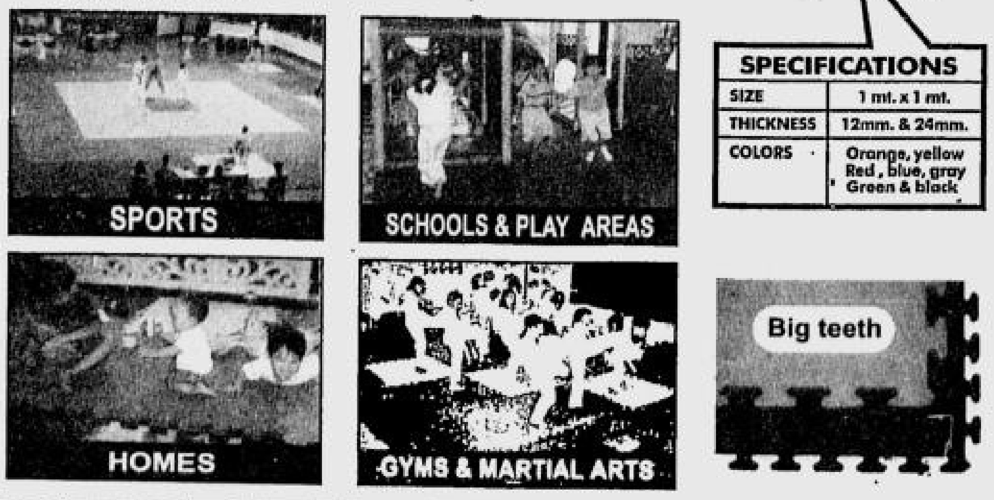

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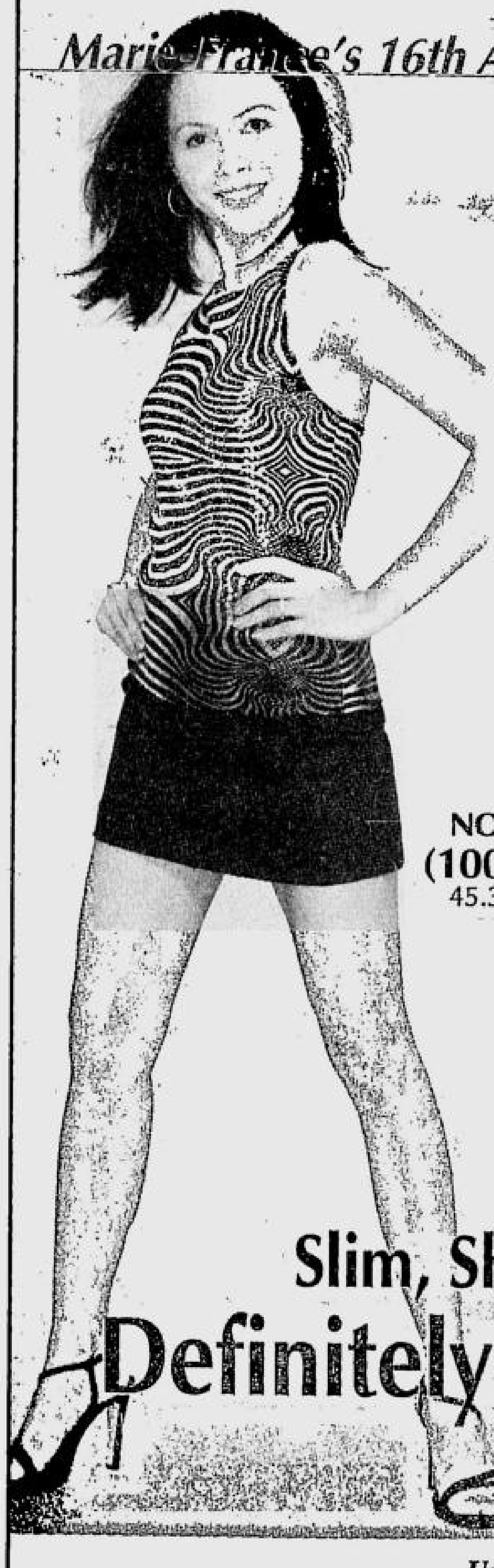

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'NO EVIDENCE'

Ani finds no scam in PCSO

By Michael Lim Ubac
and Rocky Nazareno

OMBUDSMAN Aniano Desierto said yesterday the Ombudsman Fact-Finding and Investigation Bureau had found no irregularities in the disbursement of P250 million in Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office funds.

His office could not therefore prosecute any of the government officials or First Gentleman Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, who was accused of allegedly misusing the funds by a former PCSO media consultant, Robert Rivero.

"So far we have no evidence to warrant a formal investigation (of Arroyo) as shown by documents examined by Ombudsman probers," Desierto said.

The Ombudsman said there was nothing to prove that the disbursements of the funds had been attended by irregularities.

"In fact, the P250-million advertising and promotions funds of the PCSO for this year have not been fully utilized," he said.

"Only P95.3 million has been spent," he said.

Records from the PCSO resident auditor showed that the disbursements were aboveboard and supported by proper documentation, Desierto said.

But Desierto did not order the FFIB to terminate its investigation as they still needed to check whether the contracts were properly implemented.

"But certainly the fact-finding investigation can't graduate into a preliminary investigation without any basis," he said.

Desierto also said his office has yet to receive the statement of Rivero who has so far failed to execute any affidavit or produce any documentary evidence to support his allegations.

In the telecommunications scam in which Arroyo was implicated by a former Palace secretary Bing Rodrigo, Desierto said Rodrigo had actually cleared Arroyo and had recanted her original statement.

Rodrigo had accused Arroyo of allegedly accepting a bribe in exchange for getting President Macapagal-Arroyo to recall the veto of the legislative franchises of the Philippine Communications Clearinghouse Inc. and APC Wireless Interface Network Inc.

Desierto said everything now pointed to Malou Nuñez, a former transportation and communications consultant, who Rodrigo claimed to have been the source of her allegations against Arroyo.

Nuñez, however, has fled to the United States.

At the Senate, the committee on constitutional amendments, revision of codes and laws and electoral reforms, chaired by opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara, has set for Friday the hearing on the PCSO funds scandal over the objections of pro-administration senators.

Arroyo and Rivero have been summoned to appear on Friday.

Angara said he was "hopeful that the Senate majority will not employ the tyranny of the majority to block the investigation of Arroyo."

Angara said the four senatorial candidates from the People Power Coalition—Senators Joker Arroyo and Juan Flavier and Ernesto Herrera and Roberto Pagdanganan—who were alleged to have benefited from the supposed scam have not been summoned to the hearing.

"We are not looking into the alleged wrongdoing of the senatorial candidates," Angara said.

He also pointed out that the First Gentleman had "himself decided that it is to his interest to appear in all these public investigations and the President encouraged him to do just that."

Majority senators objected to the PCSO case being referred to the Angara committee, fearing a "witch-hunt" directed at the President.

But Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel said the senators "cannot just close our eyes on anomalies committed by public officials or their spouses."

But Pimentel said he would not object to the blue ribbon committee, chaired by Joker Arroyo, participating in the investigation as a "secondary committee."

The blue ribbon committee will itself start its own probe of Mike Arroyo's alleged involvement in the telecoms franchise bill bribery case.

Erap wants to join Senate picture taking

By Rocky Nazareno

IT could be the closest ousted President Joseph Estrada would get to the halls of power he once thrived in.

That is if the Sandiganbayan approves a request by Estrada's wife, Sen. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito, to allow her husband to be by her side during a Senate photo session at 2 p.m. today on the occasion of the upper chamber's 85th anniversary.

Unlike in the past, the couple's roles would be reversed from the time it was Mrs. Estrada's duty to be by her husband's side when he was a senator, vice president and, ultimately, president.

This time around, the deposed Estrada would be coming to the Senate as the spouse.

On Oct.10, Senator Estrada manifested before the chamber her desire to have her husband join her at the photo session with all the incumbent senators and their spouses today.

Senator Estrada sought the assistance of Senate president Franklin Drilon "to make the necessary arrangements for the availability and the presence of her husband during the said occasion."

Senate secretary Oscar G. Yabes endorsed Mrs. Estrada's request to the Sandiganbayan, which is hearing the criminal cases filed against the disgraced president.

At the Sandiganbayan, the division hearing Estrada's plunder trial failed to come up with a decision on the Senate invitation last night.

If granted, Senator Estrada would be able to give her husband something his lawyers have repeatedly attempted but failed to do—a breather from his life in detention.

Estrada is currently being held at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City pending his trials.

Rene Saguisag, one of Estrada's lawyers, claimed the defense counsel had nothing to do with their client's latest bid for temporary freedom.

"It was through the initiative of the office of Senator Estrada; it was not coursed through us," Saguisag said in an interview, adding the matter was between the Sandiganbayan and the Senate.

Saguisag presumed, however, that the deposed leader "would really like to attend" the photo session, otherwise Senator Estrada would not have bothered to officially communicate her request to the Senate and to the court.

On another matter, Saguisag said Estrada will be represented by counsel tomorrow on the second day of his plunder trial.

He (Estrada) himself declared he won't be available again, "but I suppose someone (from among his eight lawyers) would show up," Saguisag said.

The start of Estrada's plunder trial last week was marred by the absence of his lawyers, who had begged off attending due to numerous reasons.

Whoever attends tomorrow's hearing would ask the court "to rationalize the trial schedule" in view of the defense counsels' individual schedules, Saguisag said.

It remains to be seen if the Sandiganbayan would again require Estrada to appear tomorrow, since it has yet to issue a "produce order" for the disgraced leader to the Philippine National Police as of yesterday afternoon.

Gov't-MILF talks resume

KUALA LUMPUR—Peace talks opened in Malaysia Monday between the Philippine government and the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front, an official said.

The five-day talks aimed at ending the MILF's 23-year rebellion follow the signing of a truce in Malaysia in August, which each side has accused the other of violating.

The MILF official said the rebels would press Manila to halt all military campaigns and adhere to the truce agreement.

He said issues on the negotiating table included working out an economic rehabilitation program for poverty-stricken Mindanao and defining the territory of the Bangsamoro people.

The first meeting Monday was "fine," he said. *AFP*

Leyte solon's ouster backed

THERE is enough ground to replace incumbent Rep. Ma. Victoria Locsin with the man whom the Comelec has declared winner of the congressional race in Leyte's fourth district, former Ormoc Mayor Eufrocino M. Codilla.

This was the legal opinion prepared by a senior official of the House of Representatives in charge of legal affairs. G.A. Mendoza, House deputy secretary general for legal affairs, issued this opinion on Oct. 4, in a memo to Artemio Adasa Jr., deputy secretary general and chief of staff of Speaker Jose de Venecia.

In his memo, Mendoza said the House would do well to heed a final and executory Comelec decision dated Aug. 29, which declared Codilla as the election winner and ordered Locsin to vacate the congressional seat she assumed when Congress opened in July.

Citing the Comelec resolution, the House official warned that allowing Locsin to keep the seat will encourage other electoral losers to use legal maneuvering to thwart the will of the electorate.

On May 14, Codilla beat Locsin by 17,903 votes. However, acting on an earlier disqualification complaint filed against the Ormoc mayor, the Comelec's 2nd division in June issued a resolution to disqualify Codilla for indirect vote-buying.

Locsin, even before the finality of the disqualification decision, was proclaimed by the Provincial Board of Canvassers in June, and took her oath of office in time to assume the seat for the opening of Congress.

However, the Comelec en banc decided with finality to set aside Codilla's disqualification and ordered his proclamation as congressman of Leyte's 4th district. Declaring Locsin's proclamation null and void, the Comelec ordered Locsin to vacate her seat in favor of Codilla. The Provincial Board of Canvassers proclaimed him winner in September and Codilla presented his credentials to the House secretary general on Sept. 14.

However, Locsin asserted that the Comelec has lost jurisdiction over their case since she had already assumed her position as congresswoman. Thus, her counsel said, the case should now be decided by the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal (HRET).

However, Mendoza said compliance with the Comelec decision "stands on highly defensible grounds," considering that Codilla garnered the highest number of votes and there was firm precedent to show that second placers should never be declared in place of the winner.

Recall Lina as jail chief, court asked

THE NEWLY appointed chief of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology said yesterday he would formally ask today the Quezon City Regional Trial Court to recall its order designating Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr. as acting BJMP director following a memorandum issued Thursday by Malacañang that rescinded an earlier memorandum "holding in abeyance" his appointment.

In a press statement, S/Supt. Josue G. Engaño said his lawyer, Plaridel Bohol, would formally ask RTC Branch 216 Judge Modesto Juanson to recall the court order designating Lina as acting BJMP director. He said the court order is actually defective because the President has the sole authority to appoint/promote somebody in the uniformed service to the rank of a director, which is the equivalent of major-general in the Army or military service.

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Politicians on police drugs list

(From page 1)

ensure that these are not used to transport illegal cargo.

"We're also issuing strict guidelines on the use of ambulance and other government vehicles because the incident has shown that these can be used in illegal activities," Lina said.

Suspended

Mitra has been suspended and faces criminal and administrative charges.

Lina said Mitra would be charged before the Ombudsman with violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act for the illegal use of a government vehicle. The mayor will also be charged with a criminal case for violation of the Dangerous Drugs Act.

"He's denying the accusations but he himself was driving the Starex van when arrested," Lina said.

In a short talk with reporters after he was presented to the media, Mitra pointed to his driver as the one responsible for the presence of shabu in the ambulance.

In Infanta, Catholic bishop Julio Labayen, head of the Prelature of Infanta, expressed alarm over the worsening illegal drug problem.

"I'm afraid that this could lead to another Edsa if the government does not sincerely address the illegal drug problem," Labayen said.

"We have the Navy and the Coast Guard along our coastal areas. But are they performing their jobs with all the zeal and commitment required of them by the people?" he asked.

Labayen confirmed reports that the islands off Lamon Bay had long been used as drop-off points by illegal drug syndicates.

The towns of Infanta, General Nakar and Real are facing three major islands along the Polillio Strait, namely: Polillio, Patnanungan and Jomalig islands.

He commended the involvement of civilians in the intelligence buildup that led to the arrest of the syndicate members.

Peace covenant

"This is the offshoot of the peace covenant that was initiated by Rep. Rafael Nantes in the neighboring town of General Nakar. It encouraged the people to speak out and help in the struggle against drug traffickers," the bishop said.

Nantes filed a resolution calling for a congressional probe of the foiled shabu smuggling in the province's first district.

"What went wrong with the government agencies concerned that they did not detect the unloading of the contraband?" Nantes told the INQUIRER.

"Even if Mayor Mitra was politically aligned with me during the last elections, the law must be upheld," said Nantes, the Liberal Party district chair.

Mitra, who is in his last term, ran under the Liberal Party during the last elections.

He is reportedly married to a public elementary school principal in Panukulan with whom he has three children.

Mitra, a civil engineer, was a former overseas contract worker. After returning from abroad, he won several government projects.

Vigilantes

Board member Hernando Avellaneda, former mayor of General Nakar, suggested the formation of "vigilante groups" that would deal with illegal drug syndicates.

"However, that is easier said. I could again face human rights violation charges. But it seems that with the gravity of the situation, there is no other recourse for the people but fight back," said Avellaneda, who was known as "Mayor Gapos."

He recalled that five years ago villagers would often see hard plastic buoys floating in the seas off General Nakar.

"When we conducted investigations, we found that those buoys came from Taiwanese fishing vessels that trespassed on Philippine seas," he said.

He added that when the Agta natives cracked open the plastic buoys, they found a white substance like *tawas* (alum).

"We just threw the substance into the water. We did not know then that it was shabu because until now, I don't know how shabu looks like," he said.

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News that makes a difference

Ramos cleared in Expo scam

By Michael Lim Ubac

OMBUDSMAN Aniano Desierto has cleared former President Fidel Ramos of any criminal liability in the alleged irregularities in the 1998 Centennial Expo projects.

Desierto said yesterday that the Ombudsman Fact-Finding and Investigation Bureau (FFIB) did not find probable cause to prosecute Ramos for allegedly realigning more than P7 billion in government funds to finance the Centennial Expo projects.

Without evidence against the ex-president, the Ombudsman's office cannot go into a preliminary investigation, Desierto said.

But he said the FFIB has not formally terminated the investigation.

"We're still willing to investigate... as long as there's evidence," he said.

He said that even if Ramos did indeed realign funds into the Centennial projects, he was not at fault as he was allowed to realign government savings under the General Appropriations Act.

But whether the realigned funds did come from savings, only the Commission on Audit can say, Desierto said.

Unfortunately, the COA has failed to furnish the Ombudsman's office with an audit report on the Centennial projects, he said.

Without the audit report, his office cannot proceed with any further investigation, Desierto said.

"COA has not told us what was realigned. It has not given us any formal report on the project. So how can we say if there was any irregularity?" Desierto said.

Johnny Recio of the COA's Public Information Office declined to comment when asked about the status of the audit report yesterday.

Desierto said that there may have been "some neglect" on Ramos' part, but it is no longer "actionable" as Ramos was not a public official anymore.

Administrative penalties on offenses like negligence cannot be imposed once someone has quit the service, said Desierto.

Ramos was implicated in the so-called Centennial scam in which former Vice President Salvador Laurel and several others were accused of favoring private companies that won the contracts for the Centennial projects.

They were also accused of making unauthorized changes in the original project plan, particularly in the Centennial Exposition (Expo Filipino) in Pampanga.

Ramos' detractors, however, failed to specify the particular projects in which the ex-president allegedly spent the realigned funds.

The Centennial Exposition was meant to be a "strategic undertaking" to attract foreign investments to mitigate the adverse economic impact of the Mt. Pinatubo eruption on Central Luzon. It was given an initial budget of P1.9 billion, which grew to P2.251 billion.

An Independent Citizens' Committee, headed by lawyer Rene Saguisag, which investigated the Expo scam said the final project cost was P3.5 billion.

But the total expenses for the Centennial celebrations allegedly reached more than P9 billion.

The Expo opened in 1998 but closed down on June 30 that year after suffering heavy losses.

On Nov. 6, 1999, the Saguisag committee recommended the indictment of Ramos, Laurel and six others.

Saguisag said that at the very least Ramos—because he was no longer president—should be made to pay a fine equal to six months of his salary.

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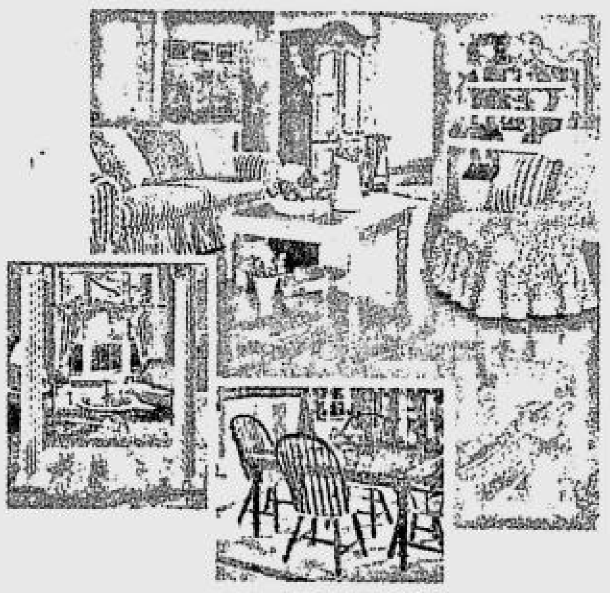

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OPINION

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Conflict of interest

EDITORIAL

LAST week, Robert Rivero, former consultant to the general manager of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, accused First Gentleman Mike Arroyo of being behind a plan to bribe about 100 media people by giving them "juicy" government positions. He said that among them were publishers, editors, station managers, columnists and reporters appointed directors of government corporations.

Malacañang defended their appointment. Presidential spokesperson Roberto Tiglao said that the presence of media people in government corporations allowed the administration to present its views. He said that it really depends on a journalist "to draw the line between being part of government and being a media man."

The problem with the appointment of a media person to a government position is that it gives rise to a conflict of interest. A conflict-of-interest situation is one where the appointee finds that one of his jobs, interests, activities or duties can be advanced only at the expense of another of his jobs, interests, activities or duties.

When there is a conflict of interest, the credibility of the journalist, and the entire news organization for which he works, is threatened. The appearance of a conflict of interest can be just as serious as a real conflict. If the public believes that a journalist is in the pay of a government official or politician, his credibility suffers even if the journalist is not, indeed in his pay.

The Wall Street Journal, which has one of the strongest conflict-of-interest policies in the news business, said in an editorial that the credibility of the newspaper "could not be long sustained if readers come to believe that our articles are tainted by some hidden agenda other than informing the public." That is why in most newspapers moonlighting or holding down a second job is prohibited. Well, not entirely. There are some permissible activities. For instance, a journalist may write a book but not a promotional booklet for a real estate company. He may teach, but may not work for a public relations firm, political party or government agency.

Most American news associations have rules on conflict of interest. The Statement of Principles of the American Society of News Executives says: "Journalists must avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety as well as any conflict of interest or the appearance of conflict. They should neither accept anything nor pursue any activity that might compromise or seem to compromise their integrity."

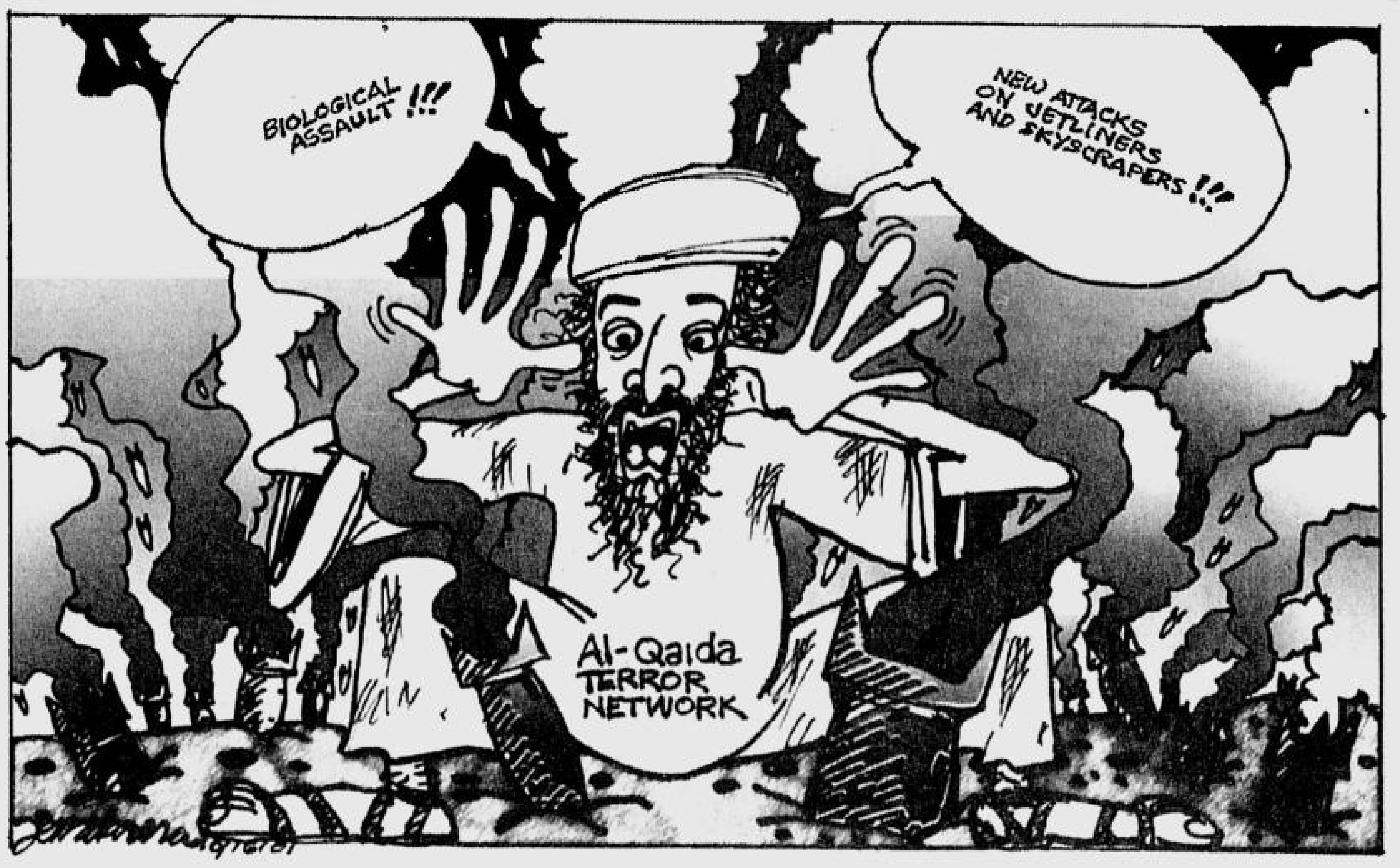
The Code of Ethics of the Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi, is more explicit: "Journalists must be free of obligation to any interest other than the public's right to know the truth... Secondary employment, political involvement, holding public office and service in community organizations must be avoided if it compromises the integrity of journalists and their employers." The Code of Ethics of the Associated Press Managing Editors states: "The newspaper and its staff should be free of obligations to news sources and special interests. Even the appearance of obligation or conflict of interest should be avoided..."

In the Philippines, the Philippine Journalist's Code of Ethics says in part: "I shall not let personal motives or interest influence me in the performance of my duties nor shall I accept or offer any present, gift or other consideration of a nature which may cast doubt on my professional integrity."

The Philippine Daily Inquirer does not allow any of its staff, correspondents or contributors (including columnists) to get themselves in a conflict-of-interest situation by accepting a government post. Its staff members have to choose between working full-time in the paper or working for the government; they cannot do both at the same time. Its Manual of Editorial Policies says that columnists "may not serve as propagandists for any political party or candidate, business interest or any other entity."

Journalists have to make a choice when offered lucrative positions in government, including government corporations. Journalism and government have had traditionally adversarial relations. How can journalists perform their work as media people fully when they owe a debt of gratitude to the appointing power in government?

Readers have to have absolute trust in the independence and integrity of newspapers and the people who write and edit for them. Thus, journalists cannot have one foot in journalism and the other foot in government. They have to avoid even the appearance of conflict of interest. Like Caesar's wife, they have to be above suspicion.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House should act quickly on Codilla vs Locsin case

(*Continued from yesterday*)

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

REPRESENTATIVE (?) Ma. Victoria L. Locsin was defeated by Ormoc City Mayor Eufrocino Codilla Sr. in the May 14, 2001 elections for congressman of the 4th district of Leyte. But it is she who is now sitting in the House of Representatives and not Codilla. And the House leadership refuses to install Codilla as the duly elected representative despite his proclamation by the Commission on Elections.

Locsin refuses to obey the Comelec order and vacate the position which she is usurping. She claims the Comelec lost jurisdiction over the case the moment she became a member of the House and that the body that has jurisdiction is the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal (HRET). Recognition of and compliance by the House to that Comelec resolution, she claims, will be an "abdication of the integrity, independence and jurisdiction of the House over its sitting members."

Yesterday's column explained how this crazy state of affairs came about and the legal reasons why the House should comply with the Comelec order and accept the real winner, Codilla, in the opinion of G. Mendoza Jr., House deputy secretary general for legal affairs. The following explains why he believes it is the HRET that has no jurisdiction over the case.

1. The HRET's jurisdiction is over "contests relating to elections, returns and qualification of (House) members." But in this case, the House is not passing judgement upon any election contest or qualification of a member but simply complying with a final and executory decision of the Comelec promulgated pursuant to its constitutional authority. It is difficult to see how this act of complying would encroach upon or threaten the HRET's exclusive jurisdiction.

2. In arriving at its decision, the Comelec acted within the limits of its constitutional authority, which includes the power to cancel illegal proclamations. Where a proclamation is null and void, the proclamation is no proclamation at all and the proclaimed candidate's assumption of office cannot deprive the Comelec of the power to declare such nullity.

3. If the Comelec were powerless to declare the nullity of the proclamation and proclaim the duly elected candidate on the mere ground that Locsin has already been proclaimed and is already a member of the House, it will encourage the "unscrupulous to prevent the proclamation of the true winner" and "stir up inducements to fraudulent schemes to defeat the voters' will" on the basis of an illegal, invalid proclamation. It will sanction fraudulent "grab-the-proclamation-and-delay-the protest" schemes, the very evil sought to be eradicated by our elections laws. This is amply explained in the Comelec ruling.

4. In the same vein, if the House were powerless to comply with the Comelec decision, then all this exercise of the Comelec's constitutional duty to ensure full respect for the people's choice—together with the House's constitutional obligation to respect a valid decision of a constitutional body that seeks to uphold the sovereign will—is rendered meaningless.

In short, the HRET did not acquire jurisdiction over Locsin because she did not become a member of the House due to the fact that her proclamation was declared by the Comelec as null and void, from the very beginning.

There can be no abdication by the House of its independence and jurisdiction over its members because Locsin never became a member of the House. She is a loser, not a winner, in the May 14, 2001 elections. Under the Constitution, it is the Comelec which determines who is the winner in a particular election. In that election, the Comelec declared with finality that it was Codilla—not Locsin—who won. And it is the duty of the House to accept and usher into office whoever is proclaimed by the Comelec.

"Stripped of legal formalities, the issue before the House is who is the winner because that is what elections are all about," said Codilla in a letter to the members of the House. "One among you is not a winner, but she refuses to yield her post in spite of the fact that I won with a plurality or lead of 17,903 votes.

"But the issue goes beyond who won. A more important issue is whether the House will allow a loser to represent a district without the mandate of the people. I would like to believe that the members of this body will not allow this anomalous situation to continue because it would certainly affect the integrity of this chamber."

"All I ask," Codilla pleaded, "is that the sovereign will of the electorate of the 4th legislative district of Leyte be respected and complied with. That will not happen if a loser, in the person of Ma. Victoria L. Locsin, will be allowed and tolerated to continue discharging an office of public trust she did not win nor deserve."

Locsin is technically a usurper, an impostor discharging functions to which she has no legal authority. What would happen if, in a vote for an important and controversial piece of legislation, she casts the winning vote for the bill. The legality of the bill would be in question while the issue remains hanging. When the case is finally decided against her (and it cannot be otherwise) the law becomes invalid and everything that was done in its implementation are also invalidated.

Locsin is now collecting the salary and allowances of the representative of Leyte's 4th district. When the case is finally resolved, she will have to return all those emoluments because she was never entitled to them. It cannot be said that she collected those emoluments in the performance of her duties while she was a member of the House, because the Comelec, which is the ultimate judge in elections, has already declared with finality that she lost in the elections and has, in fact, ordered her to hand over her position to the real winner.

(*To be continued*)

Different from you and me

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I DON'T know if Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo realizes the acute irony of the rhetoric of antiterrorism she has been pleased to spout with exceptional zeal over the past several weeks. A rhetoric that has brought in its wake the drone of warplanes over Philippine skies and slush of steel hulls through Philippine waters. Indeed, that has brought in its wake the return of American military advisers to the Philippines.

The moral linchpin upon which America's war on Afghanistan rests—or since a war presupposes two armies smiting each other, and not merely one awesome force pulverizing a helpless one, America's extirpation of the Afghan population—is that the Talibans are just as guilty as Osama bin Laden of terrorism. They are guilty of terrorism because they are harboring a terrorist.

To avoid being visited the fate of terrorists, all they have to do is surrender Bin Laden. The sovereign will of states does not apply in this case because morality overrides the sovereign will of states. Customs and beliefs may not be appreciated here because a categorical imperative takes precedence over customs and beliefs. And legal jurisdictions have no place here because a crime that calls out to the heavens for justice obviates the need for juridical niceties.

That is the moral justification Ms Macapagal has accepted without question, and has been echoing in her exceptionally gung-ho espousal of the American cause in Asia.

One may easily put up any number of hypothetical parallels here to show how questionable that logic is. But there is no need to. Our own history—that juncture in particular when the country teemed with American military advisers and navy and air force personnel, and rang with the rhetoric of the containment of an international terrorist conspiracy called communism—is filled with actual parallels

Some of them happened during the term of Ms Macapagal's father himself, Diosdado. On Nov. 25, 1964, Larry Cole, an American serviceman, shot to death a Negrito who was scavenging for scrap metal in Clark Airbase. Shortly afterwards, on Dec. 17, two other American servicemen, Alden Edwards and James Thomas, shot to death a Filipino fisherman who was presumably fishing in restricted waters. Filipino tempers, already much frayed then, flared up when Cole defended his action by saying he mistook the intruder for a wild boar. It did not help that US Ambassador Richard Blair, hoping to turn the tide around and take the offensive, counter-charged that terrorists had tried to bomb a classroom full of children inside Clark Airbase.

A furor arose. The Philippine press demanded that the servicemen be tried in Philippine courts. Macapagal, wishing to appease both the public and the Americans (sounds familiar?) asked his justice secretary to investigate the bombing incident, which turned out to be a complete fabrication. But also trying to appear resolute, he called for a review of the bases agreement, presumably to settle jurisdictional issues. But soon after the shooting incidents left the public gaze, he agreed to let the Americans court-martial the accused servicemen. They found them innocent, and shipped them away.

Of course, the death of a Negrito and a Filipino fishermen does not weigh in the world's reckoning as heavily as the death of 7,000 American and foreign nationals in New York. And of course, the killing of children taken to be scavenging animals, which would continue to happen in Clark Airbase, and which Nora Aunor would immortalize in the movie "Minsan May Isang Gamu-Gamu" by shouting at an American official, "My brother is not a pig!" does not represent as unmitigated an evil as the slaughter of people taken to be Allah's enemies in the heart of infidel country.

But neither was our demand for redress extravagant. We did not ask the United States to hand over its erring personnel from deep within the Appalachian mountain or face our unmitigated fury. All we did was ask it to hand over for trial its erring personnel from deep within our own territory. We did not ask the United States to turn its back on its customs and beliefs, to renege on its duty to protect its people who fought for flag and country. All we did was ask it to honor its obligations as demanded by law and morality, and trust in our capacity to render justice.

It refused to do so. But who is there to punish a country like America?

When America confronted the Talibans with Bin Laden's guilt, the Talibans merely asked for proof. When we confronted the Americans with the possibility that their ships and airplanes might be carrying nuclear weapons, they replied that it was not their policy to confirm or deny. When America threatened to send the Talibans to the bosom of Allah if they did not give up a guest, they merely replied that if that was what God or America wanted, then they would accept their fate. When we hinted that we would send special relations to the scrap heap if the Americans did not live up to their obligations, they replied that that it was not for beggars or the Philippines to determine the fate of kings. When America asked for Bin Laden to face the wrath of the world, the Talibans merely said only Allah could sit in judgment over him. When we asked for the American servicemen to face the bar of Philippine justice, they replied that our courts did not offer justice, they merely offered the rope.

So Ms Macapagal will forgive me if I do not stand up and cheer while she gallops around on a white horse, proclaiming to the world her undying support for obliterating a country that harbors a fugitive from justice. I do remember F. Scott Fitzgerald saying, "The rich are different from you and me."

The powerful are too.

Anti-drug campaign yields a lodestar

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE RECENT capture in Panukulan, Quezon, of nearly 500 kilos of high-grade shabu, with an estimated street price of P1 billion, by a combined team of the Philippine Narcotics Command and the NBI was spectacular. This was a far bigger haul than the 365 kilos seized in the Lucena-Sariaya area last year. PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza said that the recent bust was the biggest confiscation in this country—a real lodestar.

This is good news, as it gives us citizens hope that perhaps the government's anti-drug campaign is finally yielding fruit, prodded no doubt by an alarmed citizenry after all the exposé on drug-trafficking involving former top PNP officials and the real threat of narco-politics in this country.

The news item said the seized drugs were already packed in one-kilo packages, ready to be disposed of. It's hard to imagine how many thousands of young people would have been destroyed by such a quantify of shabu. The President could give the apprehending units special recognition to encourage more such busts.

* * *

The fact that the latest seizure happened in the same area as last year's big haul reminds us how easy it is to land drugs and other contraband in the Quezon Peninsula. Its long, mostly isolated coastline needs tighter and more close patrolling by the military and the police. Moreover, because the recent bust showed the collusion between local officials, in this case the mayor of Panukulan, and drug agents, it underscores the need for keeping the local officials in line.

Another question that needs to be answered is, what happens to those nearly 500 kilos of shabu? How can we ensure that they do not disappear, like the drugs that were seized in the past, and resurface in the market, courtesy of some corrupt lawmen? After all the testimony given during the Senate hearings about the resale of seized drugs, let's keep a tight watch on those confiscated drugs.

* * *

The new cases of suspected exposure to anthrax in the United States has heightened the fear of bio-terrorism. This has only added to the seemingly never-ending anxieties and nervousness of the American people who have to live with the prospect of hijackings, attacks on tall buildings as well as the escalation of a war against the Taliban and Osama bin Laden whose end nobody can predict. US authorities are trying their best to soothe raw nerves as they urge the people to continue going about their normal business, such as shopping, flying on airplanes and attending sports events.

But studies show that such fears are not going away and the doomsday feeling persists. One good thing is that because of the recent disasters many people have developed strong yearnings for closer ties with family and friends as well as with God. The downside, however, is that many Americans are returning to "unhealthy ways" and trying to overcome their nervousness by abandoning their diet, increasing their drinking and smoking, dancing the night away in bars and clubs and having casual relationships with strangers. Weight-loss companies have noted a wave of cancellations and diet foods are not selling well. Instead, people are going for rich foods, which is bad.

* * *

Board of Investments Governor J. Antonio Leviste, the proud husband of Sen. Loren Legarda, wrote to say that my disclosure about diving instructor Gary Cases' experience and observations on the destruction of coral reefs in Siargao Island off Surigao is not limited to that island paradise. Right along the west coast of Batangas, in Nasugbu, Lian, Calatagan, dynamite fishing is rampant and this has been going on since time immemorial, says Leviste. Like Siargao, the coral reefs there are all but dead, which is why Senator Legarda organized in 1991 the Save Our Seas Foundation Inc. which has developed an innovative, albeit limited, approach to preserve the coral reefs there, by delineating an area called the Fortune Triangle and protecting it "exclusively and determinedly." Leviste admits that this is a drop in the bucket in the vast ocean of the archipelago, but if every seacoast community would do likewise, the entire coastline of the country could be covered by such "triangles," much like a complete jigsaw puzzle.

* * *

My friend from UP days, Clarita Reyes-Lapus of the famed Reyes family of great cooks, wrote to say that their foundation, the Mama Sita Foundation Inc., is sponsoring what I consider to be a great contest that's so timely: The Search for a Cooking Family. The award, called the Mama Sita Award for the Advancement of Filipino Culinary Traditions, will be conferred on an outstanding Filipino family cooking with native ingredients. Mama Sita Foundation Inc. is a non-stock, non-profit organization that promotes Philippine culinary heritage, family solidarity and environment-friendly tourism. If there is a counterpart of economic nationalism in food, its proud exponent is Clarita Lapus herself, who heads the Mama Sita Foundation.

She said the award carries P30,000 worth of scholarships and/or cash. To qualify for the search, the entire family must be based in Metro Manila and be involved in the food operation that is the source of livelihood for all its members, with a maximum capitalization of P200,000. Anyone can nominate as many entries as possible, and the winning family is free to choose the school its members may wish to enroll in to improve their food business. The nomination is open up to Nov. 30, 2001.

* * *

The contest was launched last Aug. 23 with the Vice President's wife Ruth de Lara-Guingona as guest of honor. The awards night will be held on May 11, 2002, the birthday of the late matriarch of the Reyes clan, Teresita "Mama Sita" Reyes, who founded the Aristocrat chain of restaurants and the famed brand of food products that include sauces and mixes. A panel of distinguished people in the hotel and restaurant business as well in culture and the arts comprises the board of judges. Mama Sita passed away in 1998, but her vision lives on in the foundation and in her legacy of promoting the Philippine culinary heritage.

What's good about this search for the cooking family is that it will preserve and promote our culinary heritage and Filipino family values, and improve our people's awareness of this heritage. This is a heroic feat in this day and age of the fastfood chains and TV snack and meals that have inundated the whole world, including Japan and Paris, bastions of nationalistic cooking. Moreover, the contest will help raise the winners' culinary skills to professional standards, and link up livelihood opportunities between urban and rural areas.

Those who wish to join the search for the cooking family may inquire about the details from the Mama Sita Award Secretariat at 131 F. Manalo St., San Juan, Metro Manila, tel. 724-9435 and 729-9451, or fax no. 726-0369.

Cheering for New York

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

AMONG the impromptu memorials and notices of missing persons in the wake of the Sept. 11 World Trade Center tragedy are posters emblazoned with the words: "No Day but Today."

The phrase is itself a mantra popularized by the musical "Rent," composer and librettist Jonathan Larsen's tribute to New Yorkers and the New York spirit. Watching the Sunday matinee performance staged at the GSIS Theater by Atlantis Productions, I suddenly understood where New Yorkers get their moxie, and found the pluck to pick up the pieces and start anew.

A few days after the Twin Towers' collapse, Manhattan and the rest of New York was understandably shell-shocked, its streets empty, the usual 24/7 cacophony suddenly silenced and subdued. And yet, even as candles continue to burn before the pictures of people still missing, New Yorkers have moved on, going about their business and perhaps telling themselves that even as they mourn the loved ones they lost, there's still "no day but today."

That is what "Rent" tells its audience, especially in the way its characters, "losers" by conventional society's standards, rise above their circumstances to find love, friendship and family while remaining true to themselves. Not every New Yorker may belong to the bohemian class or live up to the bohemian lifestyle which "Rent" celebrates, but every New Yorker is a survivor and believer in tomorrow, as they proved in the last few days.

* * *

THIS, then is the special reward involved in a second watching of "Rent." For one who caught the original Manila production, much of the pleasure and shock that gave "Rent" its edge the first time around may have been dulled. But the beauty of a second viewing is the opportunity to glean new and refreshing insights from the songs, story and characters.

This second staging employs a mixed cast of originals and new talent, though unfortunately, memories of the first cast tend to work against the newer actors. How I missed, for instance, the charm and insouciance of Ricci Chan as Angel. Jake Macapagal tries very hard to personify the lovable Angel, but for starters, he seems a physical mismatch. Rachel Alejandro has a fine voice, but her Mimi is strangely vapid and seems removed from the action.

The tandem of Bituin Escalante and Lana Jalosjos, though, occupy their roles as Joanne and Maureen with energy and confidence. Lana I particularly enjoyed, imbuing Maureen's famous monologue with charm and naughtiness. Bituin, of course, dominates the cast with her powerful voice.

How fortunate, too that Calvin Millado, JM Rodriguez and Michael de Mesa are still around to essay the characters Roger, Mark and Tom Collins. They ground the production and are visibly much more "at home" now in their characters' skins.

Credit the cast's spirit that at the end, singing "No Day but Today," one felt like cheering for New Yorkers, not just for the low-lifes in this musical, but for each and every citizen of that great city.

* * *

STUDENTS and teachers in communications, advertising, design and allied fields are urged to take part in the 17th Philippine Ad Congress, to be held from Nov. 22-24 in Cebu.

Witty and humorous ads touting the congress may give the impression of a fun-filled get-together, which it usually is, but there's also serious work and learning involved in each Ad Congress. The ad congress' theme this year is "Target: Market, Asintado sa Pinoy Ngayon." President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will keynote the opening ceremonies, while other speakers will touch on ways of relating with the consumer. Dr. Paul Temporal, a global expert on brand creation, development and management, will talk on "Romancing the Consumer." Tim Tyler, founding chair and managing consultant for Peppers and Rogers Group Asia, will share his ideas on "One-to-One Marketing." On the creative front, Akira Kagani of DYR Japan will talk on "Creativity: The Asian Perspective."

Local experts on consumer and market research will also share their insights. Among them are Fidela Zaballa, president of Feedback Inc. who will discuss "The Emerging Gray Market" (thus the ads with Jaime Fabregas shopping for toupees and the matron extolling the virtues of liposuction and Wonderbra); Raul Juan Esteban, managing director and COO of Philippine Survey and Research Center (PSRC) who will talk on "Dollar Earner, Peso Spender" on spending patterns of OFW families; while Alicia Pascual, regional managing director of Audit and Surveys Worldwide, and Azucena Barredo, executive director of AC Nielsen Philippines complete the line-up of speakers.

Client, brand and IT-based speakers include Virgie Ramos, president of Gift Gate Inc.; Regina Navarrette, VP-Marketing of Jollibee Foods Inc.; and Manny Escosa of Pacific Internet.

Show-biz personalities like Boy Abunda and Johnny Delgado will lead a panel of discussants that will provide answers to the question: "What makes box-office hits and top rates" or, to use more trendy lingo: "Paano Ba Magpapatok?"

* * *

WHAT makes this year's ad congress truly appealing and useful for students, though, is the Communication Arts Students Forum to be held at the Cebu Plaza Hotel, where future advertising professionals and current hotshots get to meet and exchange views. The forum will be highlighted by the presentation of Raul Castro, executive creative director of Lowe Lintas, on "Creativity in Motion," discussing how marketing and advertising objectives can meet in harmony. Successful case studies on what really works in the Philippine marketplace will also be discussed in the forum.

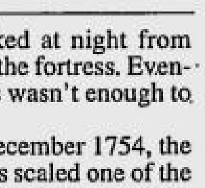
The congress will be capped by the Araw Awards Night, a tribute to the country's best advertising on print, radio and TV, always a glitzy and entertaining affair.

Students and their teachers registered for the Congress are entitled to attend all the sessions, aside from the Students Forum. To register, you may call the ad congress secretariat at Tel. Nos. 818-6158, 892-8348, 892-8359, or register on-line at www.philadcongress.com. Remember, participants from academe are entitled to special discounted rates, but hurry since slots are limited.

Myths or legends? (2)

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper



DUE to the slave raids inflicted on the Visayas by the Caragas in the 17th century, a fort was built in Tandag (present day Surigao) in 1609 to deter the Moro incursions. Fr. Rene Javellana, in his book "Fortress of Empire," tells us that ironically the raiders were descendants of the Visayans and retained the custom of painting their bodies.

Fuerza de San Jose in Tandag was built of stone on the seashore fronting the bay. It was triangular in shape with three bastions. Pio de Pasos wrote in 1888 that the fort was well equipped with cannons and firearms and manned by a garrison of Spaniards and Pampangos. But according to Father Javellana, only the foundations are left today. It wasn't always that way, of course, and some of these forts bring with them stories of treachery and betrayal.

In 1753 the mayor of Caraga, Fernando Lino, died after naming Capt. Domingo Rendon as his successor bypassing Sgt. Juan Bautista Maganon who was the legal successor. Due to the dispute, Rendon egged on by the chaplain of the fort, Fr. Rodrigo de los Dolores, managed to convince half of the garrison to defect and resettle in the town of Tajo beside a river south of the fort, taking some of the equipment with them. He also treacherously advised Sultan Admirubdni-Jamsa, who lived in Tamontaca, to take advantage of the lack of men and supplies of Maganon to attack the fort.

The Moro contingent disembarked far from the reach of the fort's cannons and built trenches, protected by walls of earth, and installed some artillery. They attacked repeatedly and were repeatedly repelled but caused heavy damage.

In the meantime, the effects of hunger, fatigue and accompanying illnesses began to take their toll on the fort's defenders. As some died, others lost heart and wanted to surrender, except that Maganon was vehemently against doing so. He encouraged them with the hope that help would arrive, but none did and more and more soldiers died. They had nothing to eat but some roots and herbs that could be picked at night from around the fields surrounding the fortress. Eventually the number of survivors wasn't enough to defend the fort.

During the first week of December 1754, the Moros under cover of darkness scaled one of the bulwarks and took it over, knifing the guards. The alarm was sounded, but when the rest of the men approached they saw the cannons now aimed at them by the enemy.

Seeing the futility of further resistance, some of the men opened the doors of the fort over Maganon's objections.

Finally convinced that their cause was lost, the sergeant stabbed his young wife in the heart, knowing the fate that awaited her, and then attacked the bulwark where he died fighting. The survivors were captured and enslaved, although our narrator doesn't say what fate awaited the treacherous Rendon and the chaplain.

Reading these stories, one can't help but wonder what happened to all these people with storybook names and whether their descendents are still around.

Some years after the debacle at Tandag, Manila fell to the British. After two years a treaty was signed ending the hostilities between Spain and England. The British evacuated the capital, taking Sultan Fernando de Alimudin with them (he had been imprisoned by the Spaniards for rebellion) and set their sights on Jolo. Reinstated, the sultan ceded the northern part of the island of Borneo encompassing Cabo Inarstang and the River Kimanis with the adjacent island of Balambanga in the strait of Balabac. (This was fine at the time since the British didn't have Hong Kong or Pulo-Pinac or Malaca or Singapore as yet.)

The British constructed two batteries by the sea, arming them with guns. Between them, they also built the governor's house, pavilions, storerooms and quarters for 120 men. However, the aridity of the soil and the humidity in Balabanga didn't suit them. Supported by the sultan's brothers, Muhamad-Yapal, Amad and Zarapundin, they tried to bargain for Tandun-Dalaga, close to Jolo, but Alimudin opposed this vigorously.

The British governor, knowing the sultan had been educated in San Felipe (later San Jose) and had the sergeant major of Zamboanga, Manuel Alvarez, as one of his advisers, was worried. Despite his stint of rebellion and imprisonment with the Spaniards, Alimudin wasn't too fond of the British either. When Capt. Ignacio Saavedra went to Jolo with the Zamboanga governor's commission, the sultan wanted to know why they didn't get rid of the British. Saavedra replied that it was Alimudin's fault since he ceded Balambanga even if it had been done to appease Bantilan, his other brother.

In the meantime, Datu Ten-Teng had been pilloried by the British governor and was out for vengeance. With the support of Datus Dacula and Tamango-Issac, he launched a surprise attack on the British at midnight of March 5, 1775, killing some and taking others prisoner. The governor managed to escape and take refuge in one of his brigantines anchored in the port.

A battle ensued and the Moros boarded the ship. The governor tried to bargain but finally had to abandon the island, leaving behind the other brigantine, two pontoons, a barge, the two batteries with 44 canons, 250 rifles, 35 pistols, 45 sabers, gunpowder, 22, 000 projectiles, iron and tin bars and P24,000 in silver.

Reading these accounts, one wonders whether Southern Philippines has ever known peace?

Life 101

YOUNGBLOOD

Cheyenne Dawn Regalado

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

IT'S two weeks to go before your college reunion and time seems to strangely stand still. (If you've ever been to a grand alumni homecoming, you know what I mean.) You are anticipating: catching up on the lives of your college clique; seeing your "ex" again after that break-up you thought you'd never survive; flirting with your campus crush whom you are surprised to find out you still haven't gotten over; checking out whether the person voted "most likely to succeed" is indeed successful. Then you have images of yourself showing off your new "do" or svelte figure as a revenge against that former cheesecake your college chum ran away with and dazzling your terror of a teacher (yes, the one who almost flunked you) with your brilliance on a subject he's too old to teach; and finally looking your dormitory matron in the face and telling her that getting kicked out from the dorm for breaking the rules didn't mean you didn't stand a chance of being the least bit successful later in life. Heck! You've been looking forward to this all-important event even when you were still a student.

Your mom, who went to the same school, made hotel reservations almost a year ahead. You made plane reservations two months in advance. Alumni from across the globe are chartering a plane to attend this not-to-be-missed event. You can tell you're going to have a blast.

Yet amid the anticipation and the excitement over the grandiose celebration you'll be enjoying stirs brooding recollections—a sort of reflection on what you've learned in the past and how to use it as you make your way to the future. Between the priming, preening and preparation for the big day are questions that nag: What is it that makes you so excited? Is it the thought that you have a five-digit paycheck while your seatmate who refused to let you copy her answers is still looking for a job? Is it because you want everyone who laughed at your bogus chemistry project to know that you have arrived? Is it to relive the memories of strolling along the tree-lined campus, extra-curricular activities and dormitory antics? You had a blast in college and those were your fondest memories for all time but did they teach you anything about life?

Can anyone who has graduated from college or lost hope of ever graduating be able to say his ROTC jungle drill prepared him for the urban job-hunting jungle? Can anyone say the hundreds of laps run around the track oval gave him an edge in the rat race? You have a diploma to show when you apply for a job, but did you learn enough life skills from your four-year, 200-unit college education to face the real world?

In college whether you like it or not, you find yourself enrolling in subjects like Math 17, English 25, Psychology 101, Natural Science 23, Fine Arts 51, Sociology 63 and other general education subjects. You find that some of them do not have any significance to whatever you are majoring in. For instance, what do Psychology majors do with their Spanish 11 and 12? You will even find out that things you put so much effort into are actually useless in the real world of jobs and business; that the problems you spent so much time figuring out are not the same as those you have to deal with in real life. Extracting square roots, figuring out benzyne rings, memorizing the skeletal system of the frog, applying the trigonometric functions and solving quadratic equations—none of these will prepare you for what lies ahead, the more important business of living your life.

In fact, you never take college subjects named Relationships 23 or Parenthood 12 or Happiness 51 or Life 101. College courses prepare you for a part of your life, which is work, but they do not teach you about life itself. They do not instruct you on how to go about life or how to go about solving life's problems. It is ironic that the usual things you studied in school seem trivial compared to what you ought to learn about life. That instead of studying how to simplify the fourth root of 64x squared y to the fourth power divided by z squared, you are better off learning how to simplify boy-girl relationships. And don't you sometimes wish that you know a sure-fire way to ask someone for a date instead of finding out the formula of ethyl propanate?

I mean, why doesn't school teach practical things, things that matter to us, that concern us, things that would make life easier to live—the ingredients of a happy marriage, for example—instead of teaching us abstract things like the structure of carbons, the graph of y=a sin kx or the chemical composition of something you can't even spell or pronounce?. How to get along with your peers or how to handle awkward situations—why doesn't college teach us these things? Why doesn't any university offer a course in Life 101?

The answer perhaps is that each of us has to learn these things by himself. We have to find out the answers for ourselves.

There are our parents, friends and other people to guide us. There are the great people, dead or alive, whom we look up to as our personal heroes who can inspire us with their success stories, classic or contemporary. Those that have gone before us, unfazed by the obstacles life threw in their way like Ophra Winfrey, Albert Einstein, Mozart, Helen Keller...the list of those who forged ahead, no matter the odds and the handicap, is endless. There are the Bible and great books by great people which serve as instruction manuals, but we need to have hands-on training. No amount of surveying the self-help and how-to racks in bookstores is going to make us an expert in life or a master at handling office politics or a relationships' guru. No matter how many hours we spend memorizing "Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus," if we don't apply its principles, then everything goes down the drain. No amount of scanning the pages of Stephen Covey's "Seven Habits of Highly Effective People" is going to make a difference unless we finally kick that habit of procrastination. Tomes like "Don't Sweat The Small Stuff...," "Life's Little Instruction Book," "The Road Less Traveled," "If Life Is A Game, These are the Rules" and Peabody awardee Maria Shriver's "What I Wish I've Known Before I Went out into the Real World" are great finds. They provide road signs along the way, but ultimately we have to choose which direction to take when we reach life's many crossroads.

Thus, if you want to find out what makes a successful marriage, you really have to go to the trouble of marrying somebody. Or if you want to learn how to handle awkward situations, you have to learn to confront these kinds of situations yourself.

So did you learn anything about life in college? But of course! How else would you know the value of discipline except by braving that first period swimming class in the freezing cold of the university pool? How would you learn about frugality and courage other than by mustering the guts to approach the university comptroller to allow you to take the final exams with the promise that you will settle your accounts very soon? And how do you learn perseverance other than by faithfully attending that dreaded Physics class after half of your class has dropped the subject.

As for the much-awaited reunion, ah the reunion. There is anticipation, excitement and brooding reflection, for you know that it too will teach you life lessons that will forever change you.

Cheyenne Dawn Regalado, 25, works as a transplant coordinator at the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines.

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LETTERS

Botulinum toxin is a medicine

I HAVE long enjoyed Dr. Rafael Castillo's articles in the Science section of the INQUIRER because he always makes me remember that my first duty as a physician is to care for the person inside the patient. Keeping this in mind, I would like to clarify a point he made in a recent front-page article on germ warfare. His statement regarding botulinum toxin which said that "a spoonful of botulinum toxin...can multiply rapidly in 72 hours" was not correct. It is the live bacteria, Clostridium botulinum, that can multiply rapidly under oxygen-deprived conditions, thus producing botulinum toxin.

It is important to make this distinction because botulinum toxin, or "Botox" as it is more popularly known, is an important medicine that has benefited a variety of patients like those who are suffering from serious complications of cerebral palsy or eye disorders like strabismus as well as persons with intractable sweating problems. On the lighter side, botox has been known to smoothen wrinkles!

Long before the Sept. 11 tragedy, the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health organized The Hopkins Working Group for Civilian Biodefense whose purpose has been to keep both the public and medical/paramedical workers informed and ready to respond to bioterrorism. The Feb. 28 issue of The Journal of the American Medical Association deals with botox as a weapon.

The current Type A botulinum toxin being used contains only 0.3 percent of the estimated lethal inhalation dose for humans, or 0.005 percent of the lethal oral dose for humans. This botox is also notoriously *maselan:* it can be destroyed quickly by merely leaving it exposed to room temperature or by dousing it with rubbing alcohol.

I wanted to get a few facts across to your readers so that the patients we've been treating with botox won't panic, and so that others may benefit from this therapeutic advance. Ask their doctors about it.—**ROSARIO ABAYA-BLAS, M.D., diplomate, Philippine Dermatological Society, Manila Doctors Hospital, UN Avenue, Ermita, Manila**

Excessive GSIS retirement benefits

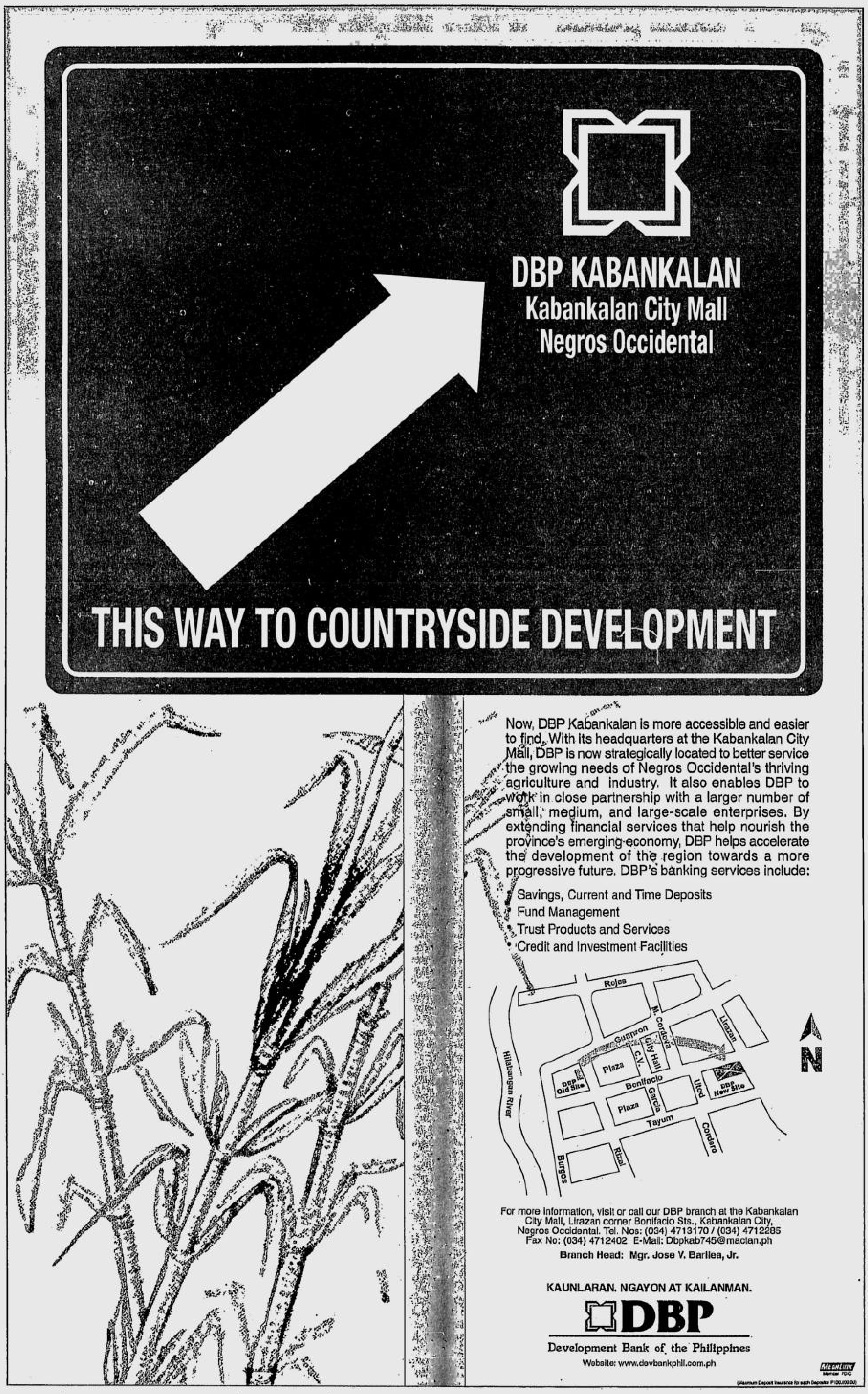
WE would like to call the attention of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to the recent decision of the GSIS board granting gargantuan retirement benefits and excessive monthly pensions to 16 GSIS personnel. INQUIRER columnists have dwelt on this issue and pointed out clearly that this violated the Teves Law by putting up another retirement scheme over and above what the law provides.

Government workers who have retired already and those who are still in the active service whose number is legion will definitely be prejudiced by this program They cannot help but feel indignant over this wanton disregard of the law on retirement for the benefit of a few people.

Winston Garcia, the president of the Government Service Insurance System, has approved this new retirement scheme, knowing very well that he will benefit from it upon his retirement. Incidentally, among so many heads of government corporations, Garcia was the only one who had the temerity to defy the order of the President requiring the reduction of the bloated salaries and allowances of ranking officials of government corporations. Now here is another form of excess in the disposition of government funds in the GSIS.

It will be recalled that early on Sen. Sergio Osmeña was very vehement in his objection to the appointment of Garcia as head of the GSIS. Apparently Osmeña had a very good reason for his objection.

Since Garcia continues to defend the grant of such anomalous retirement and pension benefits, we hope the President will take the necessary steps to declare such benefits illegal.—**DOMINGO PAGTAKHAN, Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite**



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PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

Our battered youth

A RECENT survey sponsored by Unicef showed that 27 percent of Filipino youth aged 9 to 17 have been victims of robbery, 13 percent of assault, 50 percent of fighting and 25 percent of threats.

Those figures come from a report, "Speaking Out!" released by Unicef a few weeks ago and based on a survey of young people in 17 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The survey in the Philippines was administered to 500 young people.

The violence isn't just out in the streets: 24 percent of Filipino youth claimed they were beaten by their parents or guardians if they did something wrong. It's important that we reflect on these figures, maybe even conduct more research to get a clearer picture of what's happening and the reasons behind these assaults.

Let's tackle the issue of child-beating. Other statistics from the Unicef survey help to explain its high incidence. First, our figure of 24 percent actually comes close to the regional average of 23 percent, which makes me speculate about child-beating's connection to feudal Asian concepts where parents see themselves as having full control over their children. Asian parents, many themselves beaten up when they were children, think it is their right, maybe even their obligation, to discipline their children by beating them up.

The incidence of child-beating is outrageously high in Southeast Asian countries, climbing up to more than 40 percent in Myanmar and Cambodia. In stark contrast, we find that in Australia, the survey found only one percent of young people saying they had been beaten up. Certainly, it helps that they have strict laws that penalize violence against children but the laws themselves reflect changing cultural values, where young people are no longer seen as chattels of parents but almost as co-equals with adults.

But there's more to child-beating than feudal parent-child relations. It was striking that child-beating incidence was relatively low in China (14 percent), Singapore (16 percent) and Hong Kong (12 percent). I would have thought that the strong Confucian traditions in these countries, which dictate that children should be completely subservient to parents, would have led to more child-beating.

The low incidence of child-beating in these East Asian countries suggests that there are other social changes that balance out Confucian authoritarianism. One possible explanation is that these countries have or had almost draconian family planning programs that have limited the number of children down to one in China and, in earlier years, two in Singapore. Certainly in China, psychologists have documented the "spoiled dragon syndrome" where an only child is pampered and rarely disciplined. Add on a bit of practical psychology here: when parents have many children to care for, the risks of violent temper outbursts increase as well.

I'd like to move out of the household and look at the way our youth are exposed to violence. The figures for Filipino youth being robbed and assaulted are much higher than in many other Asian countries, and validates the suspicion many of us have about our deteriorating peace and order situation. The Unicef survey only tells us that the victims include young people.

What's surprising is that despite all this exposure to violence, our young people still have a strong sense of security. Three-fourths of those surveyed said they felt "very safe" in their city or neighborhood during the day, dropping to 33 percent for these feelings of safety during the night. Both day and night figures are higher than regional averages.

My interpretation here is that young Filipinos might actually be "normalizing" the violence around them. Perhaps young people are beginning to equate violence only with war, and fail to recognize its existence at home and in their neighborhood. Worse, they may not see anything wrong with being beaten up, or being robbed in the streets. With time, they begin to rationalize: "I was bad, so I deserve to be beaten up" or "I was careless, so I got robbed."

Perhaps our young people are learning, all too early, that they have to adjust to the realities of an adult world, one where people assault, steal and murder, and where the weaker (including the young) are considered fair game. When the young turn violent, we should be asking who they're imitating.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Rebuilding Afghanistan will be long, costly–UN

BY JACK REDDEN

ISLAMABAD—A UN report in late 1993 said Afghanistan's education system was disastrous, health delivery had collapsed, 80 percent of the telephone system was destroyed and more than three-quarters of the population were illiterate.

After that things turned bad.

"What we were about to propose at that time was a two-year rapid reconstruction program for $640 million," said Knut Ostby, deputy head of the UN Development Program in Afghanistan.

"That was not intended to rebuild everything in the whole country . . . these things are in the billions. How many billions I don't think you can say.

"Obviously there has been more deterioration since then."

Stacks of the six-volume report, dated October 1993 and smelling of decay, sit in Ostby's office, still in the plain brown wrappers they arrived in for an aid appeal that never took place.

Now, while US and British forces pound Afghanistan's Taliban for refusing to hand over Osama bin Laden as the suspected mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks on Washington and New York, the United Nations again believes the opportunity is arriving to rebuild the shattered country.

The job, and the cost, will be immense.

Despite the bitter war by the US-armed mujahideen to drive out the Soviet forces who invaded at the end of 1979, parts of Afghan society still functioned when the last Soviet-imposed government collapsed in April 1992.

The capital, Kabul, had emerged largely unscathed, with a university, school system, hospitals and civil service.

Hopes rose briefly for a new start, prompting the UN study on how to turn the clock back to the 1970s when the country was modernizing rapidly.

Hopes crushed

By the time the Taliban swept the last mujahideen rulers from Kabul in 1996, the capital had been laid waste by rocket attacks in a struggle between their factions.

Now, for five years, the Taliban—poorly educated and deeply suspicious of change they associate with the West—have neglected almost all aspects of a modern government.

The physical damage is immense. The 20 percent of the phone system that still existed in 1993 is long gone. There is little electricity outside that provided by small generators. Even paved roads built with US and Soviet funds in the pre-war era, have reverted to cratered, gravel tracks without an intact bridge.

But rebuilding that could be relatively easy compared with reconstructing a society where functions of government and those educated to provide them have almost disappeared. The few government departments still working are manned by people heading toward retirement, with no prospect of being replaced.

Almost anyone with an opportunity has fled the country, while schools have for all practical purposes disappeared.

Education of girls is banned and those boys getting instruction are at madrassas—religious schools—memorizing the Koran.

"I was in the tower in the (Kabul) airport and looked at the air traffic controller. He had a beard this long that was all white," Ostby said while holding his hand down his chest. "A whole generation has grown up without normal access to education."

Afghans with skills who fled the country will not rush back after what happened in the past quarter century. A replacement for the expert in the Kabul airport control tower would need about 15 years of education.

"Compared with the state of Afghan human capital, I think the infrastructure replacement is relatively fixable, relatively quickly," said Mike Sackett, head of UN humanitarian aid to Afghanistan.

"It's not just the dollar costs. It's the time it takes to give education to children, to give technical education to those who may have graduated from primary school but that's all," he said. "It's a multi-billion dollar task but it's a multi-year task. That's the scale of the problem."

Starting from zero

Foreigners marvel at the resilience of the Afghans. These instinctive traders astride the crossroads of Asia caravan routes for thousands of years will capitalize on any entrepreneurial opportunity.

But the United Nations is talking about building a country from scratch.

Sackett says Afghanistan will need massive aid on several fronts, and for years to come: rebuilding infrastructure, a functioning government and judiciary, economic institutions such as banks, and social services such as health and education.

While there is no indication how long the war will last—Pakistan talks of a short conflict, US and British officials leave it open-ended — maneuvering for formation of a government to succeed the Taliban is under way.

It will not be easy to put ethnic rivalries and competing warlords back in the box to recreate the relatively stable government Afghanistan knew until a 1973 coup started the unravelling. *Reuters*

AP

AN AFGHAN woman cooks on an open fire at a refugee camp near the Tajik border Oct. 13.

Nationwide strike called in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD—Merchants by the thousands kept shops shuttered across Pakistan on Monday after Muslim leaders called for a national strike against government support of US-led military strikes on Afghanistan.

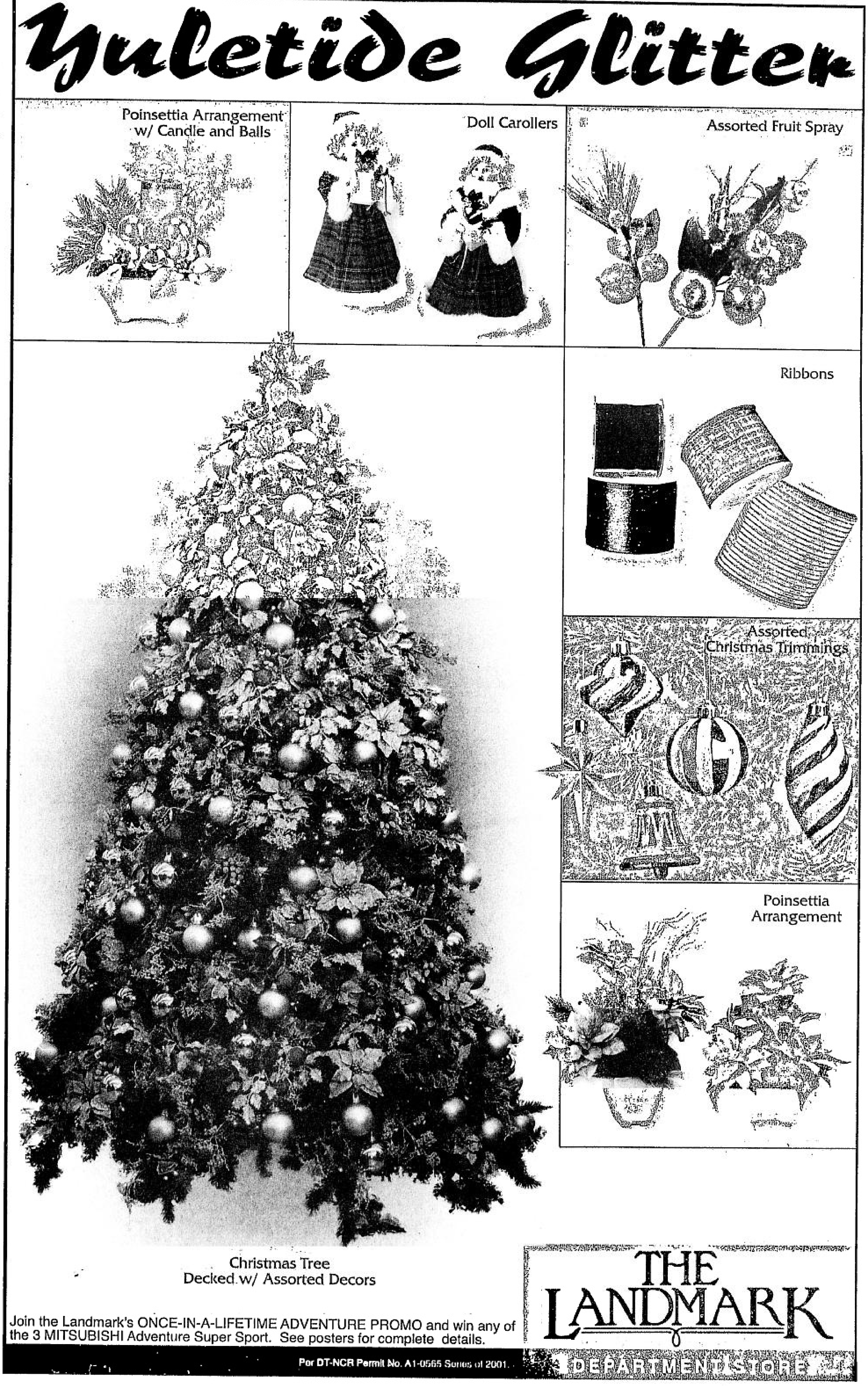
It was not immediately clear how many businesses supported the strike and how many closed because of intimidation by members of militant Islamic parties, who have threatened and sometimes attacked uncompliant merchants during recent demonstrations.

Nearly every store was reported closed in the Taliban-friendly border city of Quetta, and the entire business district was shuttered in the southern town of Jacobabad, site of large anti-American demonstrations Sunday near Shahbaz Air Base, which US personnel are using.

However, in Karachi, Pakistan's largest city, many businesses were reported open. Authorities said one demonstrator was wounded during scattered clashes between protesters and authorities. Some stores also were shuttered in Lahore, a major eastern city where one police officer was injured Monday by stones.

Outraged by President Gen. Pervez Musharraf's support of the American-led coalition against terrorism, militant Islamic political parties have been protesting in the nine days since US and British planes began attacking Afghanistan.

Some demonstrations have turned violent, notably in the cities of Quetta and Karachi, though only several thousand of Pakistan's 145 million people have been involved. Militant leaders say Musharraf has betrayed the nation and have called for his ouster. *AP*



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Koizumi voices remorse, S. Koreans unmoved

SEOUL—Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi yesterday made the most forthright apology yet by a Japanese leader for his country's brutal colonial treatment of Korea but failed to ease bitter memories of the suffering.

Hundreds of protesters at times drowned out Koizumi's voice as he made a landmark speech in a former Japanese colonial prison in Seoul.

"I sincerely regret and apologize from my heart for the pain and sorrow inflicted on the Korean people by Japan's colonial rule," said Koizumi, speaking in front of a monument to Korean independence fighters tortured to death in the prison.

"The sufferings of the Korean people in the face of foreign invasion, national division and other unbearable adversities go beyond my imagination," he added.

"Japan and South Korea should cooperate not to repeat the painful past ever again."

Before his speech, Koizumi toured the Soedaemun Prison Hall Museum seeing the basement chambers where gruesome reminders are kept of the torture and execution of prisoners by Japanese colonial police and soldiers between 1910 and the end of the occupation in 1945.

"I feel remorse after seeing the various facilities and exhibitions and signs of torture, not because I am a Japanese prime minister but as a politician and a human being," he said.

Koizumi laid a wreath before the small monument inscribed with names of the Korean independence fighters who lost their lives in the prison. He twice bowed in front of the monument and observed a moment's silence with his hands clasped in prayer.

But the one day visit—one week after a similar fence-mending trip to China—and apology made no major impact on South Korean leaders nor the public.

Hundreds of members of anti-Japanese civic groups seeking to disrupt Koizumi's speech scuffled with the thousands of riot police deployed around the prison museum.

Some burned a picture of Koizumi while others screamed through loudspeakers to drown out his speech.

A planned visit to the National Assembly was canceled because opposition politicians had threatened demonstrations, news reports said.

The main opposition Grand National Party rejected the apology. "Oct. 15, 2001, will be recorded as another national humiliation day in our history," the party, the biggest in parliament, said in a statement.

Even President Kim Dae-jung called for further action from Japan during a later summit with Koizumi.

"I have esteem for repentance and apology you made at the museum," Kim was quoted as saying by a spokesperson. "This shows your recognition of past history but you have to turn it into action."

Kim said Japan must take action similar to Germany in recognizing its past misdeeds.

The summit talks covered Japan's handling of its history, the global anti-terrorism war, North Korea, a fishing dispute and the World Cup finals to be cohosted by the two countries next year.

South Korea and China have complained about new history textbooks, which they say whitewash Japan's aggression against its Asian neighbors.

The books do not mention that tens of thousands of mainly Korean women were used as "comfort women" sex slaves for Imperial troops during World War II.

President Kim sought better ties in 1998 when he took office and the then Japanese prime minister Keizo Obuchi also made an apology.

But relations have been soured by the textbooks, Koizumi's visit in August to a Tokyo shrine that honors war criminals and a new fishing rights dispute.

AFP

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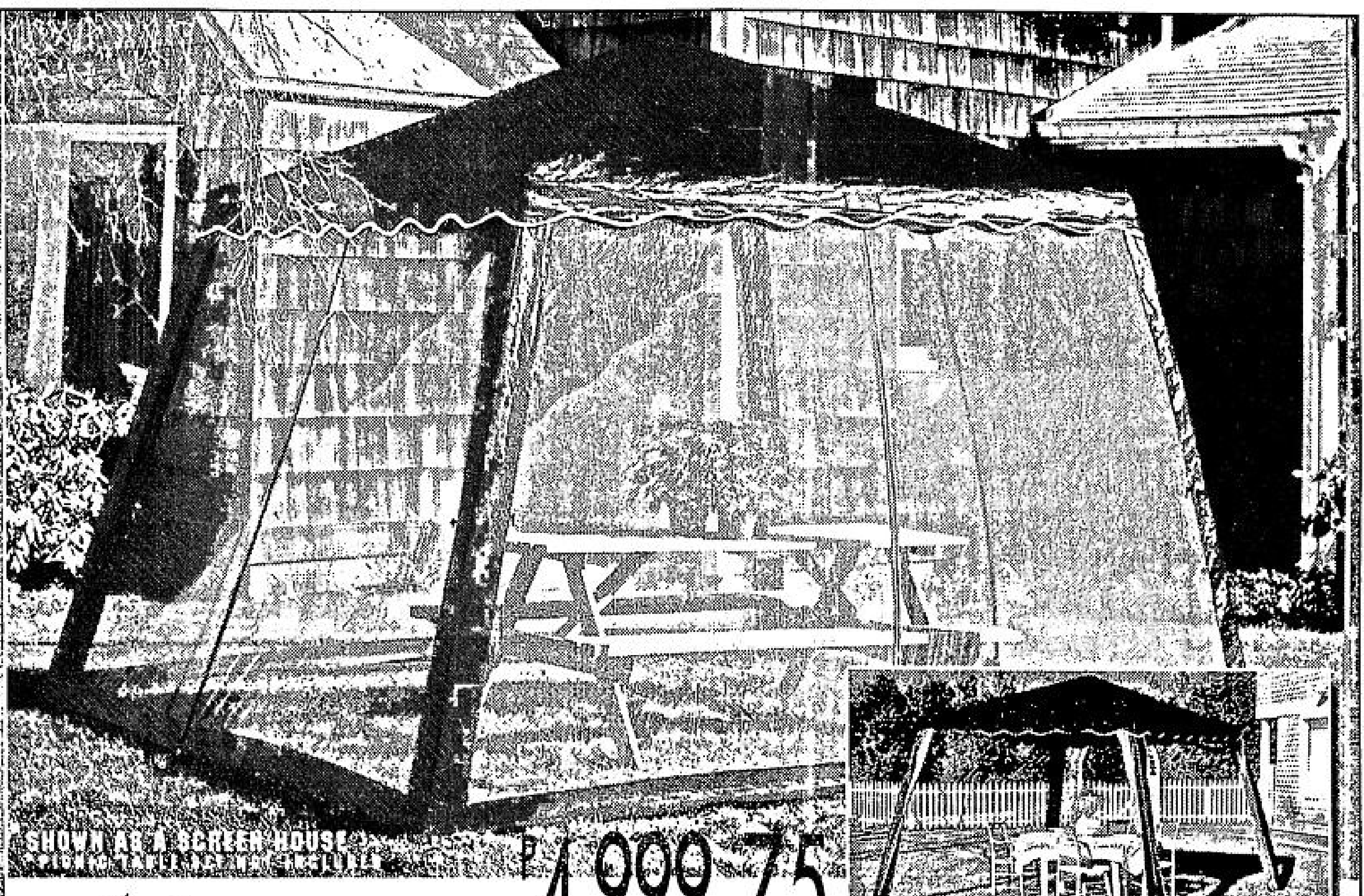

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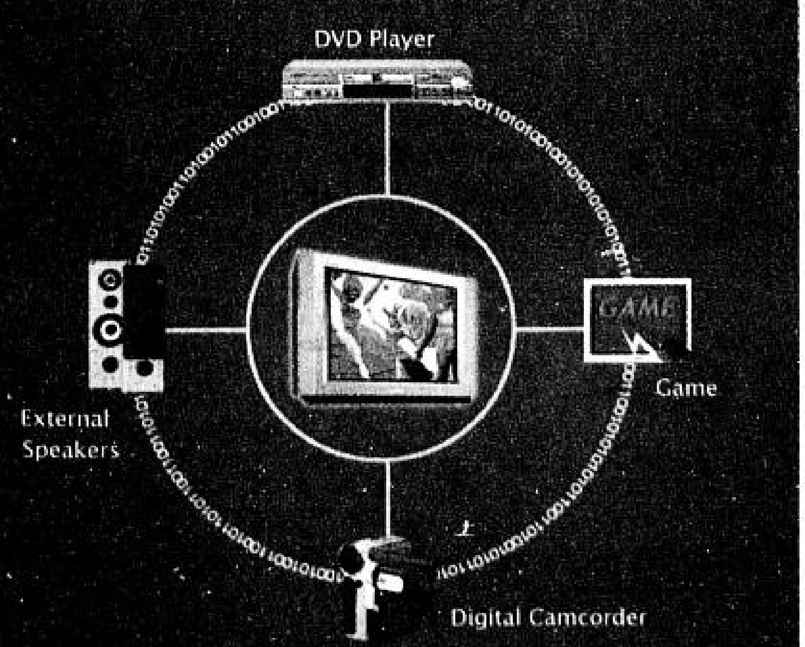

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Israel pulls out of Hebron hotspots

JERUSALEM—The Israeli Army on Monday pulled out of two trouble-hit areas of Hebron it re-occupied more than a week ago, an AFP correspondent saw.

Within a few minutes a convoy of some 10 tanks and armored vehicles withdrew from the Palestinian neighborhoods of Abu Sneinah and Al Sheikh to a sector of Hebron under Israeli control.

The pull-out came after Israeli state radio reports of a security meeting between Israeli and Palestinian representatives in a building housing the Israeli-Palestinian liaison committee in Hebron.

An Israeli government statement earlier hinted at a pull-out if the Palestinian Authority issues cast-iron assurances there will be no more shooting anywhere in the West Bank town.

On Monday, Israel was also expected to ease its blockade of the autonomous Palestinian towns of Ramallah and Jericho in the West Bank.

The Army re-occupied the Abu Sneinah district on Oct. 5 after Palestinian gunmen wounded two Jewish women. Five Palestinians have been killed in clashes with the Israeli Army since. *AFP*

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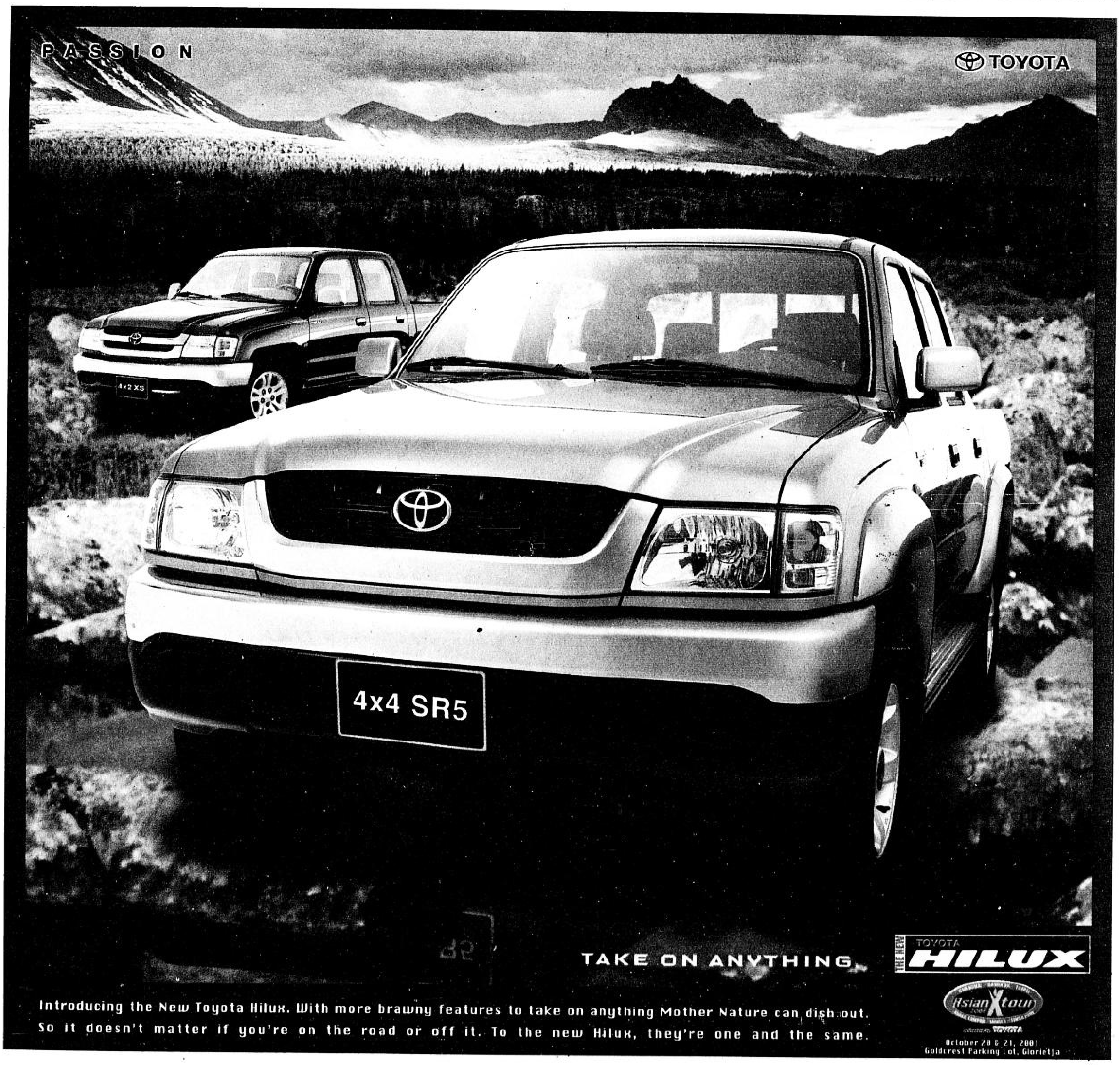
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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon and Visayas will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms while the rest of the country will be mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 24°
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	HI 25° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 19°
Laoag	Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 21°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	HI 27° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	HI 29° Lo 24°
Caibpan	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 24°
Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 24°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 25°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 26°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 24°
Davao	Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/10/15/01

ROUNDUP

Massacre suspects nabbed

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Police have arrested four suspects in the massacre of a family in Sitio Balanga, Barangay Balala, Cullion, Palawan. A police report identified the suspects as Ronquillo Lizardo, Rodolfo Ormelio, 32, and brothers Erby, 32, and Ervin Ballosis, 28. The massacre took place on Oct. 8 last year when three unidentified men entered the Arellano house, shot the sleeping residents and set the house on fire. Four members of the family were killed while three escaped. Cases of multiple murder, frustrated murder and arson will be filed against the suspects. *Jofelle P. Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

'Dugong' caught, set free

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—A female *dugong* or sea cow was found trapped inside a fishpen the other day at Sitio Mandaragat, Barangay Sta. Cruz here. Ludivico Dinoy found the *dugong*, measuring 2.29 meters long and 2 meters wide, when he was about to haul his fish harvest. He immediately sought the help of their barangay captain, who reported it to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Later in the afternoon, the *dugong* was released back to the sea by a rescue team from the Kabang Kalikasan ng Pilipinas, Environmental Legal Assistance Center, DENR and Dinoy himself. *Jofelle P. Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

2 CPLA factions reunite finally in Abra meeting

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The two major factions of the Cordillera People's Liberation Army (CPLA) finally reunited after a weeklong negotiation last week in Bangued, Abra.

Lt. Col. Juanito Dalmas, commanding officer of the Army's 17th Infantry Battalion, said the CPLA factions led by Mayor Mailed Molina of Bucloc, Abra, and James Sawatang reunited with the group left by the slain CPLA founder Conrado Balweg.

Dalmas said the two factions agreed to sign the "covenant of unification" on Oct. 25 at the Cordillera Regional Assembly Hall here. A dialogue will also be held during the signing ceremony.

Lawyer Nestor Atitiw, CPLA counsel, however, clarified that the Bangued meeting was only for the setting of the terms of conditions for the factions' "mutual coexistence."

"The point of the dialogue is for the two factions to go their own way. There was no hostility between the two groups," Atitiw said.

He also said leaders of the Balweg faction met last week with government officials and they were offered economic packages exclusive of what President Macapagal-Arroyo promised them in Tinglayan, Kalinga, on Sept. 1.

The negotiation at Bangued was the third of such agreement, the first two having been set on Sept. 28 in Luba, Abra, and on Oct. 4 in this city.

Representing the two groups were Rafael Wasan and Leo Kigis of the Molina-Sawatang faction, and Jet Sagudang and Mariano Agosto of the Balweg faction.

Molina and Sawatang split with Balweg in 1992, allegedly over ideological differences. There were reports in 1999 that Sawatang also split with Molina.

Sawatang was Balweg's trusted lieutenant in the famed Lumbaya Company when Sawatang, Balweg and Molina were still with the New People's Army in the 1980s.

The reunification of the two factions will hasten the long-delayed integration of the CPLA into the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The AFP integration was the government's fulfillment of a peace agreement signed by then President Corazon Aquino and Balweg in 1986. *With a report from Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Church leaders call for new peace pact

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Local Church leaders plan to greet President Macapagal-Arroyo with a protest rally on Wednesday to press for a re-negotiation of the peace agreement with the breakaway Robolusyonaryong Partido ng Manggagawa-Pilipinas (RPM-P) and its military arm, the Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA-ABB).

Fr. Aniceto Buenafe, Bacolod Diocese social action director, said he had been instructed by Bacolod Bishop Vicente Navarra to send out letters, urging schools and parishes to join the mass action.

He said the protestors would line up along the road near the airport and hold up placards and streamers to let the President know their sentiments.

Ms Macapagal is expected to arrive here on Wednesday to keynote a business summit at L'Fisher Hotel.

The Estrada administration signed a peace agreement with the RPM-P on Dec. 10, 2000 in Don Salvador Benedicto town, 47 kilometers northwest of this city.

The RPM-P broke away from the mainstream Communist Party of the Philippines and its military arm, the New People's Army, in the wake of widespread discontent over the leadership of Jose Ma. Sison, who is based in Utrecht, the Netherlands.

The RPA-ABB operates nationwide, but the bulk of its forces are in Negros Island.

Shortly after she assumed office, Ms Macapagal formed a review panel headed by National Security Adviser Roilo Golez to look into the peace agreement.

During last month's consultation, civil society groups and Church leaders here demanded for a renegotiation of the peace agreement to change provisions which, they said, were disadvantageous to the people.

Among these was the issuance of special license and permits to the RPA-ABB rebels that allow them to carry firearms.

But Golez turned down their proposal, saying their mandate was not to renegotiate but to recommend how the peace agreement should be implemented.

Renegotiating will complicate future negotiations because it will remove the element of trust, he said.

He also pointed out that the Army, the police, the local officials and the rebels were in favor of the peace agreement.

Still, Golez gave assurance that the concerns of the civil society groups and the Church would be included in the report of the review panel to the President.

230 sacks of giant clam shells seized

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources seized on Friday some 230 sacks of giant clam shells loaded in two vans of the WGA & A shipping line and ready for delivery to Manila.

Assistant provincial fisheries officer Ruben Jardin said his group was closely monitoring the transport of giant clams from the town of Bataraza.

Jardin's men immediately seized the vans as soon as they arrived at the city port.

The shells of the giant clams, an endangered species, weighed 14.4 tons and were worth about P100,000, But several nongovernment groups here said the price could be even higher because of their high demand in the shell industry, especially in the Visayas and Metro Manila.

The owner of the cargo was identified as Muhammad E. Janyako, a businessman from Bataraza.

Jardin said Janyako went to his office several weeks ago and tried to secure a permit for the transport of the giant clam shells.

He said he reminded the businessman that taking the clams from their habitat alone was prohibited.

True giant clams *(Tridacna gigas)* and smooth giant clams (*Tridacna didasa*) are listed as endangered species declared under the Convention on International Trade on Endangered Species.

These species are on the verge of extinction because of illegal fishing activities.

Fisheries Administrative Order 208 bans the gathering, selling and transportation of giant clams. Offenders face 12 to 20 years of imprisonment or a fine of P120,000, or both.

Yesterday, the BFAR filed a case of violation of FAO 208 in relation to Section 97 (taking of rare and endangered species) of the Fisheries Code against Janyako.

The latest seizure has prompted authorities to investigate the reported illegal trade of giant clams in Palawan. *Jofelle P. Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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Docs launch anti-trash campaign

By Nestor B. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—A group of Ilonggo doctors are taking the lead in addressing the mounting garbage problem of Iloilo City.

The doctors, specializing in various fields, have formed W.E. Heal (Workers for Environment and Health) to draw in other professionals concerned with the deteriorating environmental situation in the city.

Formed as a loose group in July, W.E. Heal now includes bankers, entrepreneurs, priests and nuns among its members.

"We are not just concerned with the physical well-being of patients but also with raising the health consciousness of the Ilonggo community," said cancer specialist Anita Jesena.

Among the major environmental concerns identified by the group was the city's garbage dump in Barangay Calajunan in Mandurriao District, said Louie Tirador, a heart specialist.

City Hall action

Mayor Jerry Treñas has launched an aggressive program on garbage collection based on a campaign promise to rid the city of piles of garbage strewn in streets and corners.

City Hall has fielded more garbage trucks to collect trash from all over the city every night.

Cirilo Ganzon, city legal officer, said the city government was also seeking funding assistance to build a garbage disposal plant.

But Ganzon admitted that the steps to address the garbage problem were "not enough" and that there were "more to be done."

The city government is also constrained by a P126-million budget deficit this year due to a shortfall in local revenue collections and a sharp drop in the city's share from the Internal Revenue Allotment.

Treñas already announced a freeze in budgetary appropriations reaching P118 million despite an earlier assurance that basic services, including garbage collection and disposal, will be unaffected.

Kristine Treñas, a pediatrician and sister-in-law of the mayor, said the problem should not be left to local officials. "We believe that we should be actively involved in governance."

To address the garbage problem, the group has launched a campaign to promote proper waste management through segregation, recycling and composting. Under this scheme, organic or biodegradable waste is separated for composting while non-organic or non-degradable waste is recycled.

Blue Ridge model

The doctors draw inspiration from the successful waste management project in Blue Ridge in Quezon City spearheaded by environmentalist Odette Alcantara.

Alcantara, who has turned the subdivision into a model for waste management as an alternative to "*hakot at tambak*" (collect and dump), said waste management was the "only intelligent solution to garbage problem."

Alcantara said waste management addresses the roots of the garbage problem. "It is a behavioral problem and we must therefore educate the people to take responsibility individually and collectively."

Kristine Treñas said her group has set realistic and feasible plans. Among their priority plan is to convince hospitals in Iloilo City to ensure the proper management of their waste.

She said they hoped to put up a model barangay to demonstrate the benefits of segregation, recycling and composting of waste.

"Hopefully, we will prove that this can be easily done with no cost at all," she said.

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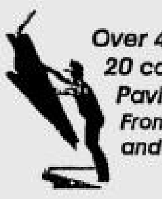

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Participants as of October 15, 2001

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AUSTRALIAN PAVILION: AUSTRADE ❖ BJC ENTERPRISES PTY LTD ❖ BATHWARES INCORPORATED ❖ BLACK FOREST TIMBERS PTY LTD ❖ CEMENTAID INTERNATIONAL MKTG LTD. ❖ EDWARDS ENERGY SYSTEMS PTY LTD ❖ INDUSTRIAL GALVANIZERS CORP OF THE PHILS ❖ KINETICS (PVT) LTD ❖ LEIGHTON CONTRACTORS (PHILIPPINES), INC. ❖ LIFESHELTER GROUP ❖ OGAMOR TRADING CORP ❖ SOLAHART INDUSTRIES PTY LTD ❖ SUNSAVER TECH. MANUFACTURING CORP ❖ SAMSONS ENT. ❖ ***ITALIAN PAVILION:*** BISAZZA ❖ ITALIAN TRADE COMMISSION ❖ SICCION MARKETING INC. ❖ ***IT PAVILION:*** HSD COMPUTERS PTE LTD CO ❖ TECH DATA CO., LTD (Korea) ❖ ***MALAYSIAN PAVILION:*** GUOLENE WOVEN PRODUCTS SDN BHD ❖ MALAYSIA EXTERNAL TRADE DEVT CORP ❖ MULTI RESOURCES INDUSTRIES SDN BHD ❖ NIKOM SALES & SERVICE SDN BHD ❖ PREMIER WOOD PROFILE SDN BHD SOUTHERN PC STEEL SDN BHD ❖ UD INDUSTRIES SDN BHD ❖ UNIT TEST SCIENTIFIC SDN BHD ❖ ***USA PAVILION:*** ACE HARDWARE PHILS., INC ❖ ACCUMETRIC ASIA PACIFIC LTD. ❖ BENEDICTO STEEL ❖ DECO PRO ❖ DONALDSON FILTRATION SOLUTIONS ❖ EASTMAN INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY INC ❖ HAWAII STEEL ALLIANCE, INC ❖ LINCOLN ELECTRIC ❖ PACIFIC TIMBER EXPORT CORP ❖ SCAFFOLD TECH ❖ SITE MIX SYSTEMS ❖ US COMMERCIAL SERVICE ❖ ***FRENCH PAVILION:*** EUROASIA PHILIPPINES, INC ❖ FRENCH TRADE COMMISSION ❖ POTAIN PHILIPPINES, INC ❖ TROUW & CALVIN ❖ ***LOW COST HOUSING:*** DISTINCTIVE ENGINEERING ❖ FORMAPLY ❖ PHILIPPINE ECOPANEL ❖ PHILMETAL PRODUCTS, INC. ❖ ***HEAVY EQUIPMENT:*** ASIA INDUSTRIES MATERIAL HANDLING EQP'MNT ❖ BOBCAT PHILIPPINES ❖ IPD PARTS & POWER SYSTEM (PHILS) INC ❖ MAXIMA EQUIPMENT CO. INC. ❖ SVEDALA

US missed chance to kill Taliban chief

(From page A1)

came out of the building.

It said an intelligence agent on the ground had confirmed that Omar was in the building.

Hersh reported that the building was eventually targeted and flattened by F-18s.

But it was too late to kill Omar who had left the building by then, according to the report.

It said US intelligence officials were "crestfallen" and "seething."

The report quoted a senior military officer as saying the incident was a result of "political correctness" taking over the system.

The officer described Rumsfeld as "kicking a lot of glass and breaking doors" after Omar got away.

Pentagon spokesperson Victoria Clarke, who refused to comment on the article, said about the characterization: "That is completely unlike Secretary Rumsfeld's behavior."

US officials have said two adult members of Mullah Omar's family were killed on the first night of US raids on Afghanistan. But officials have given few details.

The United States has been bombing Afghanistan for more than a week, targeting the ruling Taliban militia which refuses to turn over Osama bin Laden, the prime suspect in the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States.

Saudi support

In his article, Hersh also reported that a number of conversations between members of the Saudi Arabian royal family were electronically intercepted by the National Security Agency, beginning as early as 1994.

The conversations indicated that Saudi money was supporting Bin Laden's al-Qaida and other extremist groups and similar extremist groups in Afghanistan, Lebanon, Yemen, and throughout both Central Asia and the Persian Gulf.region as early as 1996.

The intercepts "depict a regime increasingly corrupt, alienated from the country's religious rank and file, and so weakened and frightened that it has brokered its future by channeling hundreds of millions of dollars in what amounts to protection money to fundamentalist groups that wish to overthrow it," the report said.

Quoting an American intelligence official, Hersh said 1996 was the year that "Bin Laden hooked up to all the bad guys—it's like the Grand Alliance—and had a capability for conducting large-scale operations."

The report said the intercepts provided important insights into political and economic affairs in the kingdom, including the extent of the physical incapacitation of King Fahd, the corruption of members of the royal family, and the funding of fundamentalist groups through various charities.

The intelligence official, according to Hersh, said the Saudis had "gone to the dark side" by bankrolling fundamentalist groups.

According to Hersh, current and former intelligence officials consider the instability of the Saudi regime as "the most immediate threat to American economic and political interests in the Middle East" and that "the Bush administration, like the Clinton administration, is refusing to confront this reality." *Reports from AFP and Reuters*

Anthrax fear sweeps globe: It's bioterrorism–US

(From page A1)

"America has many enemies, open and secret," Sohail Shaheen, the Taliban's deputy ambassador to Pakistan, said on NBC's "Meet the Press" program.

Three new anthrax exposure cases in New York brought to 12 the number of people in the United States who either have anthrax or have been exposed to it.

The three were a police detective and two city health laboratory technicians who handled an anthrax-laced letter sent to the office of the NBC television network. The hate letter was addressed to NBC news anchor Tom Brokaw and opened by his assistant Erin O'Connor, who tested positive for anthrax on Friday.

Their exposure however was tiny—just one or two spores each. They are now being treated with antibiotics as a precaution.

A second NBC employee is taking antibiotics after displaying possible symptoms of the disease. The case is not yet being treated as a confirmed anthrax case.

So far only two people have been diagnosed with the disease: O'Connor, who was diagnosed to have skin anthrax, and Sun photo editor Bob Stevens, who died of respiratory anthrax on Oct. 5.

The anthrax scare began Oct. 4 when it was confirmed that Stevens had contracted the inhaled form of the bacteria. His death was the first due to anthrax since 1976 in the United States.

Seven other employees of American Media Inc., publisher of the Sun and other tabloids, have tested positive for exposure and are being treated with antibiotics. None have developed the disease.

Bacteria not from Malaysia

In a third confirmed incident, a letter from Malaysia to a Microsoft office in Reno, Nevada, has tested positive for anthrax spores, but the four people who came into contact with it tested negative for the airborne form of anthrax.

But tests had yet to show whether they were infected with the less dangerous skin anthrax.

Two other employees were still expecting test results.

Malaysia's foreign minister said he believed that the anthrax bacteria detected in the letter did not originate from his country. The Malaysian government has pledged to prosecute anyone shown to be involved in the Nevada anthrax letter. The government has appealed to the Federal Bureau of Investigation to provide all relevant information about the case.

Atty. Gen. Ashcroft pointed out that two of the anthrax alerts were at media companies, which he said were symbols of the freedom of the United States.

"If people hate freedom, they ought to hate information that allows free people to make good decisions. That would be a sophisticated understanding by an enemy," he said.

Still jittery

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) tried to quell the growing fear over the outbreak. In New York alone, police have been called to deal with more than 100 suspicious packages in just 24 hours.

The CDC appealed for calm but urged vigilance when opening mail, saying anthrax was relatively hard to weaponize and to spread.

Nevertheless, jitters continued to spread.

Boston Globe editor Kenneth Cooper asked to be tested for anthrax two weeks after having received a threatening letter and after waking up on Saturday with flu symptoms. Cooper did not appear to have health problems.

In Santa Rosa, California, four people were released from a hospital after testing for exposure to powder that spilled from two unmarked, unsealed envelopes. Test results were unknown.

In Hawaii, hazardous materials teams were called to Lihue Airport after passengers on a flight from Los Angeles discovered a white powder on their luggage after they arrived. Tests were being conducted on the powder.

Global, too

Anthrax scares were aplenty around the world.

Nine anthrax scares were reported across Australia on Monday. The US consulate in Melbourne had to be evacuated after a chemical found in a letter caused a security alarm. The British consulate in Brisbane reported suspicious letters containing white powder.

Six people in a government building in Brisbane had to be "decontaminated" by removing their clothes and showering.

In England, several hundred people were evacuated from Canterbury Cathedral southeast of London after a worker said he saw a man dropping a white powder in one of the chapels. Workers wearing chemical protection suits cleared up the powder and took samples for analysis. The cathedral will remain closed to the public until the results of the tests are known.

In Brazil, an airport ground cleaning crew found a white powder on a seat in the passenger cabin aboard a Lufthansa flight from Frankfurt. Tests were being made on the substance.

In Argentina, 30 suspicious letters sent from the United States were received by residents of Buenos Aires. One of the letters, sent to a firm near the capital, appeared to be from a flying school in Florida where some of the hijackers who carried out the Sept. 11 attacks reportedly trained.

In Switzerland, an employee at Novartis pharmaceutical company is receiving precautionary medical treatment after he received a "suspicious letter" containing an unidentified powder.

Apartment rented by hijackers

Meanwhile, the wife of an editor of the Sun newspaper, where the first in a string of anthrax cases broke out, rented an apartment to two suspected hijackers in last month's terror attacks, the Miami Herald reported.

The revelation marks the first known link between the hijacking suspects and the anthrax outbreak.

The Herald reported that the wife of Sun editor Michael Irish rented out an apartment in nearby Delray Beach apartment to alleged hijackers Marwan Alshehhi and Saeed Alghamdi.

Alshehhi was aboard United Flight 175, the second jet to strike the World Trade Center. Alghamdi was on United Flight 93, which crashed 80 miles southeast of Pittsburgh when passengers thwarted an attempt to target another building.

"There is now a link between the editor's wife and the terrorists," said FBI spokesperson Judy Orihuela.

Orihuela said the FBI wasn't drawing immediate conclusions about the connection.

"Right now it looks like a coincidence," Orihuela said. *Reports from AFP, AP, Reuters*

US jets continue . . .

(From page A1)

cross the dawn sky over Kabul, striking in the area of the airport and a military base.

Three more bombs pounded targets northwest of the capital in a second attack hours later.

In eastern Afghanistan, a lone jet appeared out of the deep blue morning sky over Jalalabad, bombing the western outskirts as shoppers went about their business at an open market in the city center. Taliban soldiers patrolled the streets with rocket launchers and Kalashnikovs.

Bin Laden's al-Qaida network is believed to run training camps in the mountains to the west of the city. It was not clear if they were the targets.

"The Taliban just laugh at these bombs," said Mufti Yousuf, a Taliban envoy accompanying international journalists to Jalalabad. "It is nothing. It makes no difference."

Each raid drew anti-aircraft fire from Taliban forces. There was no immediate word of casualties in the two cities.

Taliban information ministry officials in Kabul claimed 12 people had died in a separate strike on Monday in Badgus province in western Afghanistan.

The Pentagon said the US Air Force was trying to gather more intelligence to check out a Taliban claim that another attack, on Thursday, killed about 200 civilians in the village of Jalalabad near Karam.

The Taliban escorted international journalists to Karam and Jalalabad over the weekend for a first look inside Afghanistan since the US-led strikes started.

Bush ordered the strikes Oct. 7 after Afghanistan's Islamic regime refused repeated demands to surrender Bin Laden, the chief suspect in the Sept. 11 hijackings that killed an estimated 6,000 people at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a Pennsylvania field.

Latest offer

Taliban Deputy Prime Minister Haji Abdul Kabir offered Sunday to surrender Bin Laden for trial in an unspecified third country if Washington stopped the bombing and provided the Taliban with evidence of the Saudi dissident's guilt.

Bush said no. "We know he's guilty. Turn him over," he said in Washington.

"They must have not heard. There's no negotiation," Bush declared. "All they got to do is turn him (Bin Laden) over, and his colleagues and the thugs he hides, as well as destroy his camps and (release) the innocent people being held hostage in Afghanistan."

The president rejected a similar offer aired by a lower-ranking Taliban official before he began the military strikes, now on their ninth day.

Aboard the USS Enterprise, the launching pad for raids on Afghanistan, US officers on Sunday described the latest attacks as "cleanup" missions to hit targets pilots had missed in earlier raids.

On Sunday, US jets destroyed Kabul's Chinese-built international telephone exchange, severing one of the last means of communication with the outside world.

Residents also said the capital's historic Mogul-style Balahisar Fort, built in the medieval era and reconstructed in the early 20th century, was flattened. The report could not be confirmed as Taliban guards kept outsiders from the area.

Military options

As US planes run out of the best bombing targets in Afghanistan, the military response to terrorism is moving into a much more delicate phase: trying to rout the al-Qaida terrorists from their hideouts and topple the Taliban regime sheltering them.

All of the options have risks.

- Sending in special forces to hunt down terrorist and Taliban leaders might not be enough to eliminate all of them from Afghanistan.
- Dispatching a larger force of ground troops raises the possibility of American casualties and erosion of support from Muslim allies.
- Helping anti-Taliban rebels means getting involved with a fractious group of warlords, some of whom are accused of corruption and atrocities of their own.

Those risks should not prevent America from pursuing its goals in the anti-terrorism campaign, said Richard Perle, a senior defense department official during the Reagan administration.

"There's always the risk that you will fail, that after this is all over the Taliban will not only be in power but may even lay claim to being stronger than before," said Perle, who is now connected with the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative think tank.

"There's even the possibility that in the ensuing chaos that someone will rise to power who is as bad, maybe in a different way. But if you allow yourself to be deterred from things that need to be done in the short term because you're worried about the long term, you can be paralyzed."

Although he has been mum about what form the next phase of military action will take, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld has said the military mission will include more than bombing.

Special forces are almost certain to play a key role in training and equipping rebel forces or making commando raids to capture or kill Taliban or al-Qaida leaders.

Fight to death

But the Taliban forces are larger and better equipped than the rebels. Many of the Taliban fighters, including thousands of foreigners, would probably fight to the death, according to American officials and defense experts.

The air strikes in recent days have moved from stationary command targets like airfields and headquarters to troop concentrations and supplies. Part of the strategy is to weaken the Taliban fighters enough so that they will be vulnerable to the rebels.

A series of commando raids that come up empty-handed, however, could encourage some countries to drop out of the anti-terrorism alliance.

Working with the anti-Taliban forces risks alienating Pakistan, which supported the Taliban in the past and does not want to see the rebel alliance take power.

Some analysts say defeating the hardcore Taliban fighters could require American infantry soldiers to enter Afghanistan. Whether the United States will send regular ground forces into Afghanistan is in doubt, however.

A ground strategy has serious risks—of accidentally killing civilians, of piling up US casualties and of alienating other countries.

A large number of dead civilians could cause internal unrest in Pakistan and other Muslim countries backing the US mission.

Taliban claims of hundreds of civilians killed—as well as the Pentagon's admission Saturday that a guided bomb missed by a mile, hitting a residential area—have fueled anti-American protests in Pakistan and elsewhere.

"As long as it's focused over a short period of time, and as long as there aren't any major civilian casualties, it becomes manageable politically," said Clovis Maksoud, a former UN representative for the League of Arab States.

"More casualties would create an escalation of not only protests but confrontation with the governments that are supporting the United States," he added. *AP*

Travel firms, DOT 'never say die'

(From page A1)

Tourism is providing all-out support, including hosting a tour for Japanese travel experts meant to convince one and all back home that the Philippines is a much safer destination, especially after the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States.

Travel agencies told Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon that the come-ons were "for immediate offering" to the North Asian market including Japan, Korea, Taiwan and China to prevent a further drop in foreign guest arrivals.

Gordon recently asked members of the Federation of Tourism Industries of the Philippines to maintain, if not exceed, tourism growth goals despite current travel anxieties.

"It is obvious we are hurting," Gordon said. "Our hotel occupancies are down 30-50 percent. We continue to receive cancellations. But these will only be temporary if we promote, promote and promote, and move on with our programs."

Gordon also said travel experts had projected that Asian tours were likely to grow significantly following the attacks in New York and Washington because travelers would soon consider Asia a safer travel destination.

He added that the Philippines was strengthening its "Balikbayan program" in the United States through a more systematic marketing and promotions scheme.

Japan

Joining the blitzkrieg, the DOT arranged a briefing for Japanese travel executives on improved security measures for foreign travelers in the country.

Japan is the biggest source of tourists to the Philippines in Asia, the DOT noted.

The DOT is concerned about the Japanese government's move raising to Level 2 its advisory on Philippine travel, indicating that the entire archipelago is now "potentially dangerous."

Earlier advisories issued by the Japanese government limited the coverage of "danger zones" to specific areas like Basilan and Sulu in Mindanao.

The Japan Philippine Tourism Council (JPTC) sent a mission that arrived in Manila yesterday to meet with Tourism Undersecretaries Rolando Reyes and Oscar Palabyab.

The group intends to ask the Japanese government to lift the Level 2 advisory covering Luzon, Visayas and at least Davao City in Mindanao.

The JPTC has warned that Japanese tourist arrivals were expected to decrease by more than half in the next 12 months if the travel advisory is not lifted soon.

As it is, the number of tourist arrivals in the Philippines was better in the first eight months of the year compared with those of Korea, Taiwan and China.

But Japanese arrivals to the Philippines dropped more than 5 percent within the same period.

"From January to August this year, there were 255,942 Japanese tourists who came to the Philippines, or 5.53 percent lower than the number of Japanese tourists who visited the country in the same period last year," a DOT statement said.

Lowest

International passenger arrivals dropped 12.6 percent, from 276,202 passengers in August to 241,325 passengers last month—the lowest for the year.

Records of the Manila International Airport Authority also showed that passenger arrivals also went down one percent from last year's January-September figures.

Domestic arrivals also dropped 7.3 percent during the same period.

As a result, MIAA revenues went down 20 percent for both international and domestic operations.

MIAA general manager Edgardo Manda said in an earlier interview that this was a result of the Sept. 11 attacks in America.

He cited the cancellation of international conferences by the United States, where, he said, most of the MIAA revenues were coming from.

Manda pegged at 7 million last year's total arrivals at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport terminals 1 and 2.

This gave the MIAA around P2 billion in income, he said, adding that 20 percent went to the national government and 80 percent to operational expenses, runway repair and personnel services.

Combined domestic and international passenger arrivals saw a 33-percent drop for the first three quarters of the year—from 134,510 last year to 89,731 this year.

General air cargo arrival, on the other hand, posted a 15-percent growth for the same period, even as international cargo arrival decreased by 20 percent.

Passenger departure numbers also dropped 16.4 percent for international travel and 5.8 percent for domestic travel.

International cargo departure saw a 16-percent drop as well, while its domestic counterpart posted an 11-percent increase. *With a report from Abigail L. Ho*

DOH advisory: Be extra careful, take a long bath

(From page A1)

people in the United States have since tested positive for anthrax, which investigators suspect was spread through the mail.

To prevent anthrax from coming into the country through the postal service, packages and parcels passing through the Central Mail Exchange Center (CMEC) at the Naia would be screened more thoroughly, according to Naia CMEC director Lovejoy Matias.

Visitors will also be screened. The Bureau of Quarantine has alerted quarantine officials at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) and the country's other major points of entry to be on the look out for incoming travelers who may have been infected with anthrax.

But National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said that despite the anthrax scare in the United States "there is no specific threat" to the country.

"All of these are news coming from places 10,000 miles away," Golez said in a briefing in Malacañang.

Even if there is an anthrax attack, the country's health experts are prepared to deal with it, according to Golez.

Sen. Teresita Aquino-Oreta wondered if the government was prepared for an anthrax attack.

"Does the DOH have an anti-bioterrorism plan that goes down to the local government level? Has the DOH already conducted a thorough study on our preparedness for such attacks?" asked Oreta.

Anthrax cases had occurred in the country although none had resulted in deaths, according to Dayrit.

Consorcia Quizon, DOH head executive assistant, noted that while she was DOH regional director in Tarlac, they had monitored about 10 cases of anthrax annually. But this involved people having skin lesions.

"It's been there, unfortunately now they are using it for bioterrorism," she said.

Anthrax epidemic in Ilocos

Dayrit said the most celebrated "anthrax epidemic" occurred in Nagbukel town in Ilocos Sur in 1999. The epidemic affected 21 people, who developed skin lesions, and killed five carabaos.

The epidemic was caused by farmers eating a carabao that died from the disease.

"Anthrax is common here because it's associated with infected animals. Animals get it by grazing on grass and if not immunized, they get sick and die," Dayrit said.

Carabaos, cows, sheep and goats that eat contaminated grass are automatically infected with the disease, according to Dayrit.

He said the disease could be transmitted through contact with tissues of infected animals or their products, inhalation of spores and ingestion of "contaminated, undercooked meat."

Apart from lesions, other symptoms include abdominal pain or fever three days after contamination.

Curable

Although anthrax can cause death, it is curable by ingestion of antibiotics such as amoxicillin, penicillin, erythromycin, doxycycline and ciprofloxacin.

"The message is this: There's a cure for anthrax, you don't need to die from it. If you get infected, either from an animal or from one of these envelopes, you get infected alone. You don't pass in on to other people," Dayrit said.

But he urged people not to take antibiotics indiscriminately.

"I wouldn't advice it, unless it's diagnosed that you've been exposed," the health secretary said.

Quarantine visitors

Dr. Jesus Abella, an official at the quarantine bureau, said immigration officials would hold incoming travelers found to be exhibiting visible symptoms like a certain skin rash, coughing and nausea.

Those found by quarantine physicians to be positive for anthrax would be refused entry into the country.

Abella said they had sent new information on anthrax to all its human quarantine offices in the major points of entry in Manila, Cebu, Davao, Iloilo and Cagayan de Oro.

He said the information came from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention in the United States.

"There are three types of anthrax symptoms. These are either cutaneous, which is exhibited on the skin; pneumonic, when the person coughs frequently; and gastrointestinal, when the person suffers from nausea and diarrhea," Abella said.

The US CDC describes cutaneous anthrax as an itchy bump that eventually turns into a painless ulcer. Lymph glands in the adjacent area may swell.

Pneumonic anthrax is characterized by coughing, colds and difficulty of breathing that may lead to shock after several days.

Gastrointestinal anthrax is characterized by nausea, loss of appetite, fever and abdominal pain. *With reports from Carlito Pablo and Cynthia D. Balana*

Common stand on rocky ground

(From page A1)

US-led campaign against prime terrorist suspect Osama bin Laden and his Taliban protectors.

"She believes that we have no other choice but to support the international coalition against terrorism," her spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said yesterday.

Ms Macapagal was to air a statement last night on her administration's continued support for the US-led campaign despite the critical stand of Muslim-majority countries in Southeast Asia.

Press Undersecretary Roberto Capco said early last night that the pre-taped statement would be aired over a US cable network that he did not identify.

The Apec officials had been scheduled to meet for two days in Shanghai amid tight security in the largest international gathering since the Sept. 11 attacks.

But the meeting might be shortened to one day because, according to Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Zhu Bangzao, "a consensus has already been reached on . . . a vast majority of issues."

What may be more difficult is finding a consensus on how to word the anti-terrorism declaration.

Still, Zhu said he was confident a "proper way" would be found to formulate a declaration with US President George W. Bush arriving later in the week to shore up support for his war on terrorism.

"We'll all have to talk it over, how to express our common views. We've still got time to talk, in the senior officials' meeting, in the ministerial meeting (starting Wednesday)," he said.

Economic issues

A Malaysian official in Shanghai downplayed the importance of the declaration on terrorism, insisting it would not eclipse the Apec forum's usual emphasis on economic and trade issues.

"Probably terrorism will also be discussed, but only very briefly. I don't think this is the right forum," he told Agence France Presse.

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Wang Guangya, who is chairing the senior officials' meeting, also said Apec would send a "strong message" on economic matters.

"We want to see more economic growth in this region, and we want other regions to believe that the Asia-Pacific region is still hopeful and confident in its economic prospects," Wang said.

But he made clear that Beijing would work hard to ensure the adoption of the statement, and hoped for better ties with Washington as a result.

US officials are said to have presented the draft statement to China, which then circulated it to Apec members for their comments.

A senior Philippine official said it would be the first time the Apec summit, which in past years has focused on trade and the economy, would issue a political declaration.

"This will be a paradigm shift in Apec," the official said.

PEACE NOT WAR!

THAI protesters stage rally in front of the US Embassy in Bangkok calling for an end to the US-led military operations in Afghanistan. AFP

But Hidetaka Saeki, deputy director general of the trade policy bureau at Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, told Reuters he was worried about anti-terrorism controls.

"What Apec has been doing in the past has been to lower obstacles to the flow of people, the flow of information and of goods," he said. "So politically speaking, this counter-terrorism thing is on the opposite side."

He also said he was personally concerned that Apec was being "hijacked by this counter-terrorism declaration."

Given its free-trade focus, the Apec forum will attempt to give added impetus to attempts to get a new round of trade liberalization talks off the ground at next month's World Trade Organization meeting scheduled in Qatar.

The 21 Apec economies have pledged to inaugurate a free-trade area in 2010 for developed members and 10 years later for developing ones.

Apec, established in 1989, aims to achieve free trade and boost investment among its members—Australia, Japan, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Indonesia, Mexico, Malaysia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, South Korea, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Thailand, Taiwan, the United States and Vietnam.

Policy stand

Asked whether the Philippines was willing to go it alone in supporting the US-led campaign given the lukewarm position of its fellow members in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Tiglao said: "We respect the views of our Asean neighbors. She has made a policy stand."

Earlier, the Philippine government through the Department of Foreign Affairs failed to rally other Asean members in coming up with a strong statement against international terrorism. It was reported that the other Asean countries would agree to join the declaration only if it focused on the root causes of terrorism.

"I declare in no uncertain terms my administration's continuing support for the international coalition's campaign against terrorism," the President said in a statement that Tiglao read for her.

She added: "I am hoping that the strikes against terrorist camps in Afghanistan will succeed in destroying the launching pads for global terrorism in the soonest possible time, and with the least casualties."

"I join the civilized world's appeal for the Taliban government to end their support for terrorism in order to avoid further loss of lives."

In an apparent attempt to douse Islamic sentiments inflamed by the US military action on Afghanistan, the President reiterated that "this is not a war against the Afghan people or against Muslims."

"This is a war against one of the most ferocious and cruelest criminals the world has seen," she said.

Tiglao said Malacañang "did not expect this to be a totally smooth campaign without any dissenting voice."

He also said the Philippines was not likely to find itself isolated because of its unconditional support for the United States.

"Certainly not isolated from our neighbors," he said. "Our neighbors are Asian and the bulk of the civilized world. They are still supportive of the coalition."

Careful wording

A senior Philippine diplomat who spoke on condition of anonymity said the draft statement on terrorism had been carefully worded to ensure unanimous approval.

There was no specific mention of the US-led air strikes on Afghanistan or of Bin Laden.

"Leaders unequivocally condemn in the strongest terms the terrorist attacks against the United States on Sept. 11, 2001, as a profound threat to the peace, prosperity and security of all people, of all faiths, of every nation," said the draft statement, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press.

It said the terrorist strikes were "also a direct attack on Apec's vision of free, open and prosperous economies."

In the draft, Apec leaders commit to forge international cooperation to battle terrorism and urge the United Nations to play a major role. They also call for the early signing of an international convention that will "stop the flow of funds to terrorists."

"Leaders commit to strive to prevent and suppress terrorist acts in the future, and express their strong support for all efforts aimed at strengthening international anti-terrorist regime," it said.

The draft also said Apec leaders would pledge to cooperate to ensure that terrorism did not disrupt economies and markets.

Member-countries would be urged to assure the safety and security of airports and planes and contribute to a discussion of aviation safety in an Apec transport ministerial meeting next year.

They would also be urged to strengthen coordination on use of oil and natural gas during emergencies and accelerate development of an electronic network aimed at enforcing customs regulations better without impeding trade. *Reports from INQUIRER wires and Carlito Pablo*

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Davenport cops 5th crown

FILDERSTADT, Germany —Jennifer Capriati got the No. 1 while Lindsay Davenport got her fifth title of the year and the Porsche Grand Prix to go with it. It was a good week for American tennis players, who showed up in Europe for the first time in significant numbers since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Davenport, playing her first event since the U.S. Open, beat Justine Henin 7-5, 6-4 in Sunday's final of the Porsche Grand Prix. *AP*

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Hingis out for 6 weeks

ZURICH, Switzerland—Martina Hingis will be out six weeks after surgery for a torn ankle ligament, an injury that probably will prevent her from regaining the No. 1 ranking this year. Hingis was hurt Saturday and had to quit during her semifinal against Lindsay Davenport at the Porsche Grand Prix in Germany. Hingis' loss allowed Jennifer Capriati to replace her atop the computer rankings. *AP*

JUDGMENT DAY

Ateneo, La Salle clash for title

Ateneo or no dinner for me

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

HOW is Joe Lipa today?

I guess he is fine.

How is Franz Pumaren today?

I guess he is fine, too.

What's for breakfast for the two? Lunch? *Meryenda*?

Rufo Sabater's asking those as though they matter when both men meet for the last time this year. Their boys—Joe's Ateneo Blue Eagles and Franz's La Salle Green Archers—meet at 5 p.m. today at the Cubao Big Dome for the UAAP crown.

C'mon, Rufo. Cut that crap, will you? You can do better than that.

Perhaps, food for both coaches today will matter only after the winner of the nation's most coveted basketball school crown is finally crowned. Barring a hitch, the coronation will happen this evening.

Of the two, Joe Lipa has the bigger, more meaningful task. He has to win it to fulfill a promise to give Ateneo the crown in three years time. A loss would mean the most terrible blow yet for the most misunderstood coach of the land.

Franz Pumaren has nothing much to lose, really. Already, he has given La Salle three straight titles from 1998. A fourth would merely mean a bonus even as it'd mean tying UST's four straight crowns from 1994.

Still, La Salle is pressured to win simply because this season, it owns a better record than Ateneo. Also, it has a deep bench, plus a deadshot from a lineup always ready to play unselfish basketball. That deadshot is none other than Ren Ren Ritualo, the only Archer given the license to shoot not only anytime but also anywhere from the court. He could shoot from mid-court, miss badly, and Franz Pumaren would still applaud. Even if Ren Ren fired that blank with 30 seconds left in the game, La Salle down by one.

Ateneo remains the underdog simply because it lacks backcourt punch. Against La Salle's full-court press, Ateneo oftentimes falters. Ateneo's point guards can't seem to deliver with consistency, especially in the homestretch. In their last game that saw them finally beat La Salle after three losses this season to force today's winner-take-all, Ateneo had the endgame luck. In that game, Ateneo's killer blows from a running jumper by Rainier Sison and a three by Magnum Membrere were clutch shots aided by the gods. In contrast, Ritualo did not have it in Game 2, missing shots he normally would sink at crunchtime. *A la* Reggie Miller.

All that is water under the bridge, to use a worn-out cliché.

Today makes for another grist of basketball lore in the most durable duel ever between two schools, dating back to the '30s. Their championship clashes stand at 3-1, Ateneo ahead.

OK, you want more history?

La Salle won their one and only title clash with Ateneo, 27-23, 62 years ago in 1939 when both schools were still with the NCAA.

In their next three title encounters before today, Ateneo was the winner—in 1947, 1958 and 1988.

In 1947, Ateneo routed La Salle, 32-20, with the legendary Moro Lorenzo and Baby Dalupan in the Eagles lineup.

Ateneo's victory in 1958 was the most dramatic, with Cris Arroyo (no relation to GMA's hubby Mike) sinking the game-winning shot with two seconds left for the Eagles' 105-103 victory in the second overtime.

In their first ever UAAP championship showdown in 1988, Ateneo won, 76-70.

So, record-wise, Ateneo is up.

But still, records don't mean a thing every time these two schools meet. On paper, La Salle's favored. Thus, when it bows anew to Ateneo today, Joe Lipa can finally smile. And next eat his dinner in style. If invited to his dinner, I might go. I have this hunch Ateneo's going to win it.

Am skipping *meryenda*.

PUMAREN

SERIES SUMMARY

GAME 1: La Salle 74, Ateneo 68 (September 27)

GAME 2: Ateneo 76, La Salle 72 (October 4)

SERIES KEY PLAYERS

LA SALLE: Cardona—16.5 PPG (56 % FG), 9.5 RPG; Cortez—14.5 PPG (57 % FG), 3.5 APG; Ritualo—14.5 PPG (31% FG, 30 % 3 PT. FG), 3 SPG.

ATENEO: Villanueva—18 PPG (83 % FT), 11.5 RPG; Alvarez—15 PPG (61 % FG), 8 RPG; Tenorio—11 PPG, 3 SPG.

TALE OF THE TAPE

La Salle		Ateneo
73	PPG	72
45.7 % (59/ 129)	FG PCT.	39.7 % (48/ 121)
34.6 % (9/26)	3 PT. FG PCT.	29.4 (10/34)
61.3 (19/31)	FT PCT.	63.3 (38/60)
39.5 (12)	RPG (OFF.)	38 (12.5)
6	2ND CH. PTS.	7
16	APG	15
20	TO	17.5
19.5	PTS. OFF TO	17.5
12	FBREAK PTS.	11
6.5	SPG	7
0	BPG	4

LIPA PHOTOS/ROMY HOMILLADA

By DENNIS U. EROA

ALL ROADS lead to historic Araneta Coliseum as defending champion La Salle and glory-seeking Ateneo collide today in the much-awaited all-or-nothing game for the 64th UAAP men's basketball championship.

With passions running high, the Blue Eagles and the Green Archers clash in the 5 p.m. decider of the best-of-three title series which has kept the sporting nation in gripping suspense since it started 19 days ago.

"Four-ward" seeking La Salle won Game One, 74-68, but Ateneo, which is eyeing to duplicate its 1988 triumph over its bitterest rival, forced the knockout third match with a 76-72 victory in Game Two on Oct. 4.

Dubbed as the Dream Showdown, the Ateneo-La Salle encounter, which promises to have all the trappings of a dramatic ending, has drawn the nation's focus as it has attracted no less than President Macapagal to watch today's game.

Due to its prestige, the game has also triggered a wild chase for tickets, which have become as invisible as Bin Laden to fans wanting to witness a slice of history. Host Far Eastern University has come under fire for the early disappearance of tickets.

The President, a former Ateneo professor, is taking a break from her hectic schedule to join the thousands of fans in watching the season-ending game, becoming the first head of state to watch UAAP game since the league's founding in 1938. There was no UAAP cagefest in the war years from 1941 to 1946.

The President, whose husband Mike is an Ateneo alumnus, will deliver a speech at halftime.

Coach Franz Pumaren's charges enjoy a 3-1 head-to-head advantage against coach Joe Lipa's wards this season, but this is one game when fighting hearts and not numbers will tell the big difference.

Ateneo president Fr. Ben Nebres, S.J., exhorted the Blue Eagles to play their hearts out in the tradition of the great Ateneo Hail Mary teams.

Nebres also asked the alumni, students and supporters to cheer for Ateneo's triumph.

"Let us cheer them on as champions on the playing court and even more in life, in the values we uphold of excellence, persistence and courage," said Nebres.

Bro. Rollie Dizon, La Salle president, said: "This is a rare opportunity to make history, a great moment to unite the whole La Sallian community—this is what the championship is all about."

Said La Salle team manager Terry Capistrano: "At the end of the day, the players will decide the outcome. May the best team win. Let us also pay tribute to both teams for making this momentous event possible."

A victory will not only give the Eagles their first title since 1988, but will also be a personal triumph for Lipa, whose stint as coach has come under fire from within the Ateneo community.

Power-playing Enrico Villanueva, Rich Alvarez and Paolo Bugia have the edge against La Salle's big men.

But La Salle will offset that with its deadly backcourtmen—Mike Cortez, Mark Cardona and Ren Ren Ritualo. Ritualo is eyeing a blazing farewell performance as he is due to turn pro after the season.

Ateneo's backcourt is anchored mainly on Lewis Tenorio, who should get more from his teammates if the Eagles intend to equalize pointguard matters.

Bata faces 'Black Widow' in 1-on-1

ONE of the world's top female pro billiards players, stunningly attractive Jeanette Lee who is known around the world as "The Black Widow," faces 1999 World Pool Champion Efren "Bata" Reyes, acknowledged as "The Magician," in a unique one-on-one match highlighting the LG Flatron Billiards Challenge at Casino Filipino, Parañaque on Nov. 3.

Casino Filipino has played host to several superstars of pool including Earl Strickland, Ralf Souquet, Johnny Archer and local heroes Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante but the Lee-Reyes clash is regarded as a trail-blazing event. Total prize money is US$15,000 (P750,000).

In a preliminary to the main event, four of the country's finest young pool players face off in a knockout competition billed "Rising Stars" for a P100,000 pot.

Lee is known for her flair for fashion and deadly skills at the table. Her celebrity status has soared with high-profile features in People, Glamour and Sports Illustrated. She's been billed on various talk shows like Extra, Hard Copy and MTV Sports as pool's premier female star.

Reyes, known for his patented grin and unbelievable shot-making, isn't taking "The Black Widow" lightly knowing that when Lee is running the table, she is cold and deadly. Reyes has been practicing for the event in earnest.

Writer Bill Brashler in an article titled "Straight Shooter" said Lee is known as "The Black Widow" and like the deadly spider of the same name, she attacks opponents like a predator. She will make you pay for any missed shot, any error. Her specialty is 9-ball, a game of speed and intimidation.

Lee arrives in Manila on Oct. 31. She and Reyes will guest in a Viva Vintage Sports TV special on Nov. 1 at 5:30 p.m. The LG Flatron Billiards Challenge will be telecast over Viva Television on IBC-13.

Woosnam triumphs

VIRGINIA WATER, England—Ian Woosnam of Wales became the oldest-ever World Match Play champion Sunday as he defeated Padraig Harrington of Ireland, 2 and 1, in a record performance at Wentworth. Woosnam was three down to Padraig Harrington with 15 holes to play, but the 43-year-old won three holes in succession from the 29th with birdies to take the lead. *AP*

Estes prevails

LAS VEGAS —Bob Estes came back from five shots off the lead with a final-round 9-under 63 on Sunday to win the Invensys at Las Vegas Classic, taking advantage of a critical mistake by Tom Lehman.

FUJI-
FUJI TV

MICHAEL Schumacher of Germany flashes the No. 1 sign in triumph after winning the Japanese Grand Prix at Suzuka Circuit in Central Japan on Sunday. Schumacher brought his dominance of the Formula 1 season to a record-breaking close with nine wins in 17 races. AP

MBA waiting for result of talks between basketball bodies

By ROY LUARCA

THE METROPOLITAN Basketball Association is not turning its back on representing the country in the Asian Games. It is just waiting for the outcome of the dialogue between the Basketball Association of the Philippines and the PBA.

Ramon Tuason, MBA director for marketing and business development, said the league would abide by whatever decision the BAP would come up with upon consultation with the PBA, which has offered to carry the country's colors in next year's Asiad in Pusan, South Korea.

"In the event that the PBA and the BAP did not come to agreement, we are ready to step in," said Tuason. "At this point, we are not going to meddle with their memorandum of agreement. After all, the Asiad has been a PBA show."

The PBA, through Commissioner Jun Bernardino, has reiterated its desire to represent the Philippines again in the quadrennial games. The PBA All-Stars took second place in the 1990 Beijing Asiad, while a San Miguel Beermen-dominated team copped fourth in the 1994 Hiroshima Asiad. The RP Centennial Team settled for the bronze medal in the 1998 Bangkok Asiad.

The Philippines last clinched the Asian Games crown in 1962 in Jakarta behind a team spearheaded by the legendary Caloy Loyzaga.

BAP president Tiny Literal head earlier welcomed the PBA's offer, but said he has to consult with the national board regarding the PBA's condition that it be given blanket authority on the preparation, training and operation of the team.

Ucap derby on tonight

A MAJOR shakeup in Ucap's Stagfighter of the Year 2001 race is anticipated when big-time cockers collide in the 6th Ucap/Altuz Sir Vincent 7-Stag Derby at Mandaluyong Coliseum beginning at 6 tonight.

Sponsors of the 62-fight program are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo.

The event, hosted by lawyer Ram Lopez and businessman-sportsman Vic Yu, is the sixth of seven derbies that serve as basis in selecting the Ucap Stagfighter of the Year winner.

Sabong idol Patrick Antonio (Hammer Sagupaan, 22 points) is the new leader after an impressive outing last week. However, Vic Yu (Sir Vincent, 21.5) and Sonny Lagon (JBB Blue Blade, 21) are within striking distance.

Others in the top 10 list are businessman Danding Cojuangco (Bumble Bee Balbina, 19); Pol Estrellado (PE San Pablo PBRJ, 18.5); Benjie Lim (Ucap BL, 17.5), Mayor Claudy Bautista) CPB PBRJ, 17.5); Ucap president Butch Macasaet (BJ Greenwood, 17); Jessie Viceo (San Rafael Anniv., 17) and Rudy Salud and Sen. Ramon Revilla (GF-Ban Cavite Coliseum, 17).

Last week, lawyer Rudy Salud's bet, GF-Ban Bacolod, emerged as solo champion in the "5th Ucap/Firebird 7-Stag Derby" after posting six wins and one loss.

For other inquries, please contact 531-4003, 531-4005, 534-4110 and 535-2341.

'Sagupaan' set Oct. 18

MORE than 40 upcoming breeders from Luzon are seeing action in the Sagupaan 4-Stag Smalltime Derby on Oct. 18 (Thursday), at the Pampanga Coliseum in San Fernando City, Pampanga.

At stake is a guaranteed prize of P200,000. Entry fee is P5,500.

A huge Sagupaan trophy plus P10,000 will go to the entry that will get the Fastest Kill award. On Sept. 29, the entry of Jimmy Mariquit of Angeles City won the Fastest Kill award, after posting seven seconds.

Screening will be held on the day of the derby, from 6 a.m. to 12 noon.

BPESS transfer to augment PSC budget

By JUNE NAVARRO

THE TRANSFER of the Bureau of Physical Education and School Sports from the Department of Education to the Philippine Sports Commission would augment the sports agency's coffers of roughly P140 million, PSC commissioner William Ramirez yesterday told the INQUIRER.

Ramirez said the increase would give the PSC more space and leeway on funding grassroots development programs such as the Palarong Pambansa.

Republic Act 9155, a bill authored by Sen. Tessie Oreta-Aquino and which was passed into law last August, recently relieved the Department of Education of its commitment on sports and culture, legalizing Executive Order 81 or the transfer of the Palarong Pambansa to the PSC.

RA 9155 also paved the way for the transfer of the BPESS to the PSC lock, stock and barrel including its yearly appropriations from the government.

Ramirez, however, cautioned that the budget increase would vary depending on the implementing rules and guidelines to be drafted by the ad hoc committee formed by the PSC.

The committee is composed of representatives from the Department of Education, Department of Budget and Management, Presidential Management Staff, Office of the Solicitor General and the Civil Service Commission with Ramirez as chairman.

"Nothing's final yet. It could even be slashed to half depending on the rules that the committee will create," said Ramirez.

He added the deadline of the draft was set for Nov. 30, right after which it would be submitted to the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee and Malacañang for approval with the concurrence of Education Secretary Raul Roco.

"We will create a set of guidelines favorable to the PSC and the Department of Education," said Ramirez, stressing the continued collaboration of both parties in handling school sports.

Yankees rip A's, force Game 5

OAKLAND, California—Playing with poise and pride in the face of postseason elimination, Bernie Williams and the New York Yankees escaped Oakland with their second victory in two days – and forced a decisive Game 5 back in their ballpark.

Williams drove in five runs as the Yankees' offense finally emerged from its slumber, tying the American League division series at two games each with a 9-2 victory over the Athletics on Sunday.

In other playoff games Sunday, the Seattle Mariners kept their championship hopes alive with a 6-2 win over the Cleveland Indians that squared their series 2-2. The Arizona Diamondbacks advanced to the National League championship series with a ninth inning, 2-1 win over the St. Louis Cardinals in their deciding game.

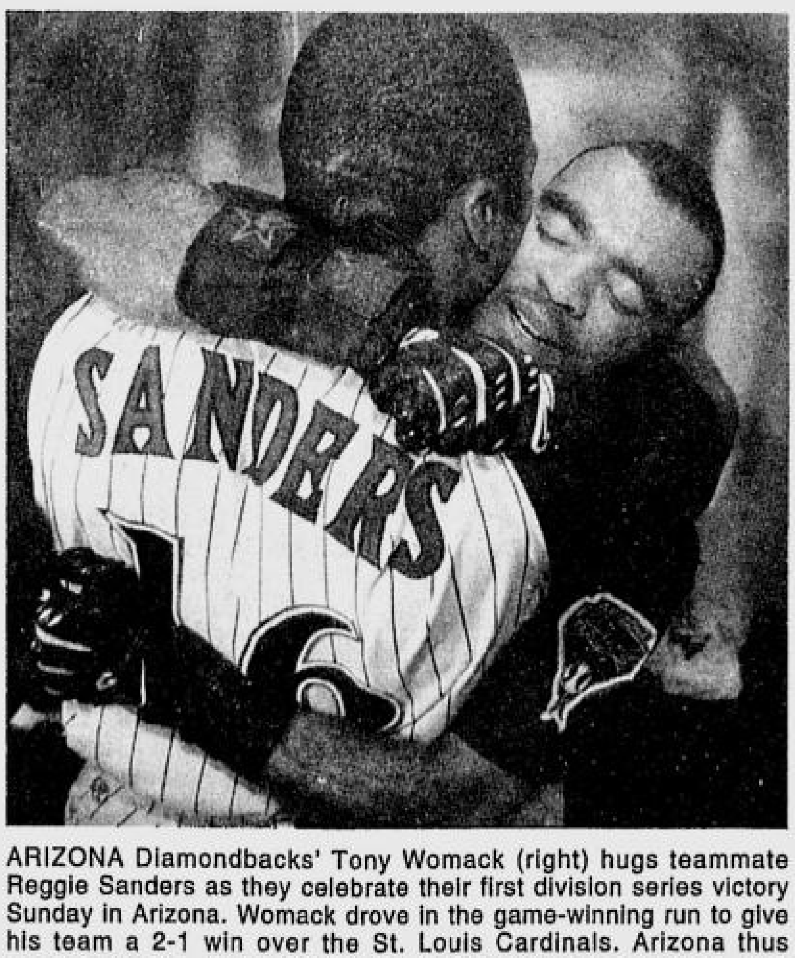
With two gutsy wins at the Coliseum—where Oakland had won 17 straight—the three-time World Series champions returned to Yankee Stadium for a deciding game Monday night. Roger Clemens will face Mark Mulder in a rematch of the opener.

The day was disastrous for the young A's, who lost their fourth straight home playoff game to the Yankees and were forced into another cross-country trip. What's more, cleanup hitter Jermaine Dye broke his leg on a foul ball in the third inning.

After hanging on for a 1-0 win on Saturday night, New York had no problem evening the series on a balmy California afternoon. The

Yankees were baffled by the A's starters in the series' first three games, but they chased Cory Lidle in the fourth inning.

Williams had a two-run double in the third inning and a two-run single in the fourth, connecting for the big hits that neither team had seemed capable of getting early in the series. He added an RBI double in the ninth and scored. *AP*



ARIZONA Diamondbacks' Tony Womack (right) hugs teammate Reggie Sanders as they celebrate their first division series victory Sunday in Arizona. Womack drove in the game-winning run to give his team a 2-1 win over the St. Louis Cardinals. Arizona thus advanced to the National League championship. AP

Acap trains gun on Cito, Butch

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE ATHLETES and Coaches Alliance of the Philippines is set to stage a protest rally next week to demand the ouster of Philippine Sports Commission chair Butch Tuason and Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit whom it described as "deaf" to the plight of athletes and coaches.

It would be the third rally to be held by the group, which this time will ask Malacañang to have a major overhaul of the PSC and at the same time lobby for the resignation of Dayrit. Acap is scheduled to take the streets on Oct. 25.

Acap, led by national weightlifting coach Jaime Sebastian, said the PSC failed to fulfill its promise made during their dialogue last month that aborted another rally. It noted that the POC has focused mainly on the 2005 Southeast Asian Games preparation instead of addressing the athletes' demands.

Tuason said repair works are underway in the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex dormitories, which was one of the complaints lodged by the Acap. Dayrit can't be reached for comment.

"Just like the PSC, the POC is deaf to our plight because Mr. Dayrit is too busy planning for the Manila SEA Games which is four years ahead," said Sebastian. "How sure is he that he's still the POC president by that time."

The Acap's outcry heightened after the PSC failed to fix the decaying RMSC quarters, increase the salaries of athletes and coaches and improve the total living conditions of some 300 national athletes and coaches. Class C athletes only get P3,500 a month inclusive of vitamin and food allowances.

Athletics chief Go Teng Kok yesterday tried to calm down the militant group but also reminded the PSC and the POC to do something about the complaints because "their continuous indifference to the growing unrest may prove disastrous in the end."

Go, who brokered the meeting between Tuason and Acap officials last month, also submitted a petition letter to Dayrit telling him that there are more immediate concerns than the 2005 SEA Games, especially since members of the fencing association – Dayrit's NSA – are joining the protest rally.

"Sometimes sports leaders must step down from their air-conditioned rooms and ask athletes how they feel training under these lowly conditions," Go said in his letter.

Sebastian added that if Dayrit had the time to inspect possible SEAG venue in Clark, "maybe he has some time to spare to listen to the grievance of the Filipino athletes and coaches."

Meanwhile, Sebastian told the INQUIRER that he has been fired by Philippine Weightlifting Association president Rodones Sicat effective Sept. 29 for insubordination. Sebastian claimed that he was informed of the decision only yesterday. Graham Lim was also fired as vice president.

Bowling in Olympics? Forget it!

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

LAST week, Kegel Asia Inc. announced with much fanfare the launching of a training center as part of its long-term goal of standardizing bowling worldwide and, hopefully, paving the way for its entry into the Olympic calendar.

Located in Parañaque City, the center is equipped with a four-lane facility, a conference room and coaching technology that is expected to help improve the games of the region's top bowlers.

"This will be big for local bowling," national coach and Kegel Asia president Johnson Cheng was quoted as saying. "With Kegel, we can be one step ahead of everybody else." Based and founded in Florida in 1981, Kegel has been making its presence felt in the bowling scene so that its lane oiling machines are now being used by most major tournaments across the United States and around the world.

"What Kegel is trying to do is standardize the lane conditions all over the world," said Don Agent, vice president for technical support. "Hopefully, the time will come when bowling conditions would be the same everywhere that the sport will get into the Olympics."

While the inclusion of bowling in future Olympics would make its followers happy, it would, however, complicate matters insofar as the Games calendar is concerned.

In Olympic sports, less is definitely more, meaning that bowling may not be admitted as a new and regular event in the Games because the addition of new sports would only cause more problems for Olympic organizers.

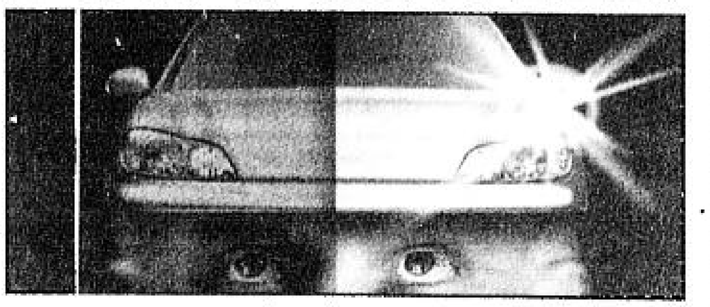
"The Games need fewer games, not more," wrote Gerry Callaghan of "Sports Illustrated." "The truth is," he said, "the Games don't need any other new sport."

There has been a strong universal lobby to include new sports like bowling, billiards, golf and chess, including dancesport, in the Olympics, but this was scuttled by the International Olympic Committee because the Olympic calendar is already overcrowded.

There are more than 35 events in the Games at present.

On record, bowling boasts more than 100 million active players, with billiards, chess, golf and dancesport not far behind in the number of enthusiasts addicted to it. Yet these events are still out of the Olympics despite their huge followings.

Bowling for instance was even held as a demonstration sport in the 1998 Seoul Olympics where our Arianne Cerdeña won the gold medal, while comebacking Paeng Nepomuceno, who recently won the ESPN Thailand Masters, is safely positioned at the top of the International Bowling Hall of Fame and Guinness Book of Records being the one and only four-time winner of the coveted World Cup.



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Holy Cross wins

MUSUAN, Bukidnon—Holy Cross of Bukidnon blanked First Fruits Academy, 2-0, to capture the Bukidnon Coke Go-for-Goal under-16 football title recently at the Central Mindanao University field here.

Joselito Rojas converted a penalty shot and set up Vic Nuevo for the second marker in the last two minutes to seal the victory.

Last year's champion Central Mindanao University settled for third place by nosing out Valencia National High, 1-0, on a breakaway goal by Carlo Perez.

Holy Cross will dispute with the winners of the Cagayan de Oro City eliminations on Nov. 27 and the CARAGA subregional competition a spot in the all-Mindanao finals set Jan. 7-10, 2002 in General Santos City.

In Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental High shut out San Miguel High School of Becong, 2-0, to retain the crown and earn a berth in the all-Visayas finals set Nov. 22-25 in Bacolod City.

Chess clinic Oct. 20

ENROLLMENT for the last series of 2001 Milo Checkmate Saturday clinic starts on Oct. 20 at two venues—Badminton Bldg., Rizal Memorial Sports complex (RMSC), Vito Cruz, Manila and 2/F Centermall, Greenhills Shopping Center (GSC).

Now on its 11th year, the program aims to develop the chess talents of children who are 5-years old and above into masters' strength level through formal and systematic method of teachings.

Registration at RMSC starts at 7:30-11:30 a.m. while at GSC—1:30-5:30 p.m. An age-group tournament will also be held among the early enrollees.

For details, call Metropolitan Chess Club at 826-8560 and 0919-331-0206.

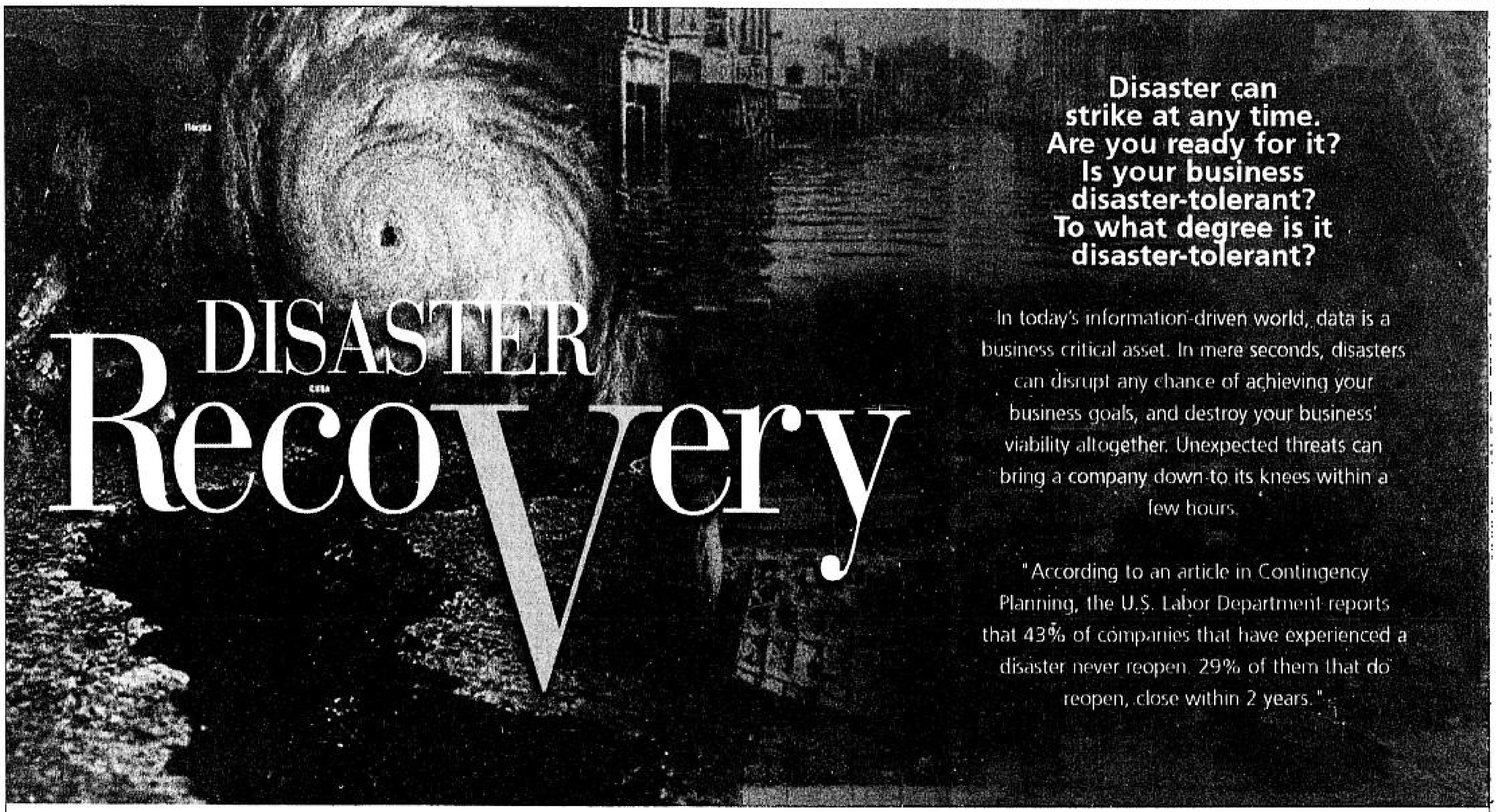
SPORTS ON TV

Compiled By Lorenzo Manguiat

GOLF: Samsung's World Championship of Golf at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

TENNIS: Tennis Masters Series (Stuttgart), Early Round Coverage Day #1 at 9 p.m. and 11 p.m. on Star Sports

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL - Washington Redskins vs Dallas Cowboys at 5 p.m. on ESPN



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☐ **Disaster Recovery for Windows** • *Tue, Oct 30, The Peninsula Manila, Balagtas Balmori Rm, Grd Flr*

☐ **Disaster Recovery / High Availability for Oracle** • *Thurs, Nov 8, The Peninsula Manila, Balagtas Balmori Rm, Grd Flr*

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- CPD officers reshuffled A21
- New water rate still cheaper than illegal prices–Maynilad A21
- Sick girl needs help A21

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

‘Police merely coordinated with Perez on Ecstasy case’

ONE of the 13 Ecstasy suspects after their arrest. JESS YUSON

By Andrea Trinidad-Echavez and Agnes Donato

THE NATIONAL Capital Region Police Office yesterday denied that a Malacañang official with Cabinet rank actively interceded for the release of 12 of the 13 suspected drug users who were arrested on Friday in Quezon City.

Supt. Cesar Abanes, chief of the NCRPO public information office, said no one was interfering with the case, but he admitted that the NCRPO had coordinated with Justice Secretary Hernani Perez to "hasten the disposition of the case" after Quezon City assistant prosecutor Luis Maceren recommended the release of the suspects.

Quezon City chief prosecutor Maynardo Bautista denied Maceren's recommendation and said in a resolution that he found the evidence police presented to be sufficient for the filing of charges against the suspects.

Bautista also recommended a P60,000 bail for the temporary release of each suspect.

Abanes said they called up Perez after prosecutor Maceren ordered the suspects' release.

"He cannot do that because it was a legitimate police operation," Abanes stressed.

He also explained that the NCRPO has been filing complaints before the DOJ which in turn would assign the cases to local prosecutors' offices.

In a radio interview, Maceren also said no government official had interceded for the release of the suspects.

"It was no yet clear whether or not (the capsules) confiscated from them were indeed Ecstasy," Maceren said in the radio interview. "There was no result yet from the crime laboratory."

POLICE MERELY/ A20

Baby Asistio son sentenced to jail for carrying drugs

By Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

A SON of former Caloocan Rep. Luis "Baby" Assistio yesterday was sentenced to four years in jail after a Caloocan Regional Trial Court found him guilty of illegal possession of prohibited drugs.

But Luisito Assistio, arrested by Caloocan police seven months ago, might still walk a free man despite the decision handed down by Judge Myrna Dimaranan Vidal of RTC Branch 127.

Under the probation law, convicts receiving a jail term of below six years may apply for probation.

Police found .06 grams shabu in Asistio's possession when he was arrested on March 1 for allegedly robbing the junk shop of a Lucita Te in Caloocan.

Asistio reportedly tried to run off with some empty bottles from the junk shop when Te refused to lend him P500, according to court records.

Lawmen under Supt. Eduardo Bayangos, substation 2 commander, arrived at the junk shop about 4 p.m. that day and invited the suspect to police headquarters, reportedly upon the request of Asistio's father.

At the police station, policemen found him with the prohibited drug, court records showed.

During the hearing, police officers 2 Leo Insierto and Ramiro Apilo testified that, as standard operating procedure, they frisked Asistio before putting him in the detention cell.

BABY ASISTIO/ A20

Bioterrorism? We're ready –Metro cops

By Christian V. Esguerra

POLICE are ready to protect the public from terrorist assaults, including biological attacks.

Chief Supt. Romulo Sales, deputy for operations of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO), yesterday said more police officers have been deployed to implement strict security measures in malls, government offices and other public places.

Sales also asked the public to remain calm amid reports of anthrax exposures in the United States that appear to be connected to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Increased police visibility in public places would calm the public and prevent criminal elements from taking advantage of the situation, Sales said.

Policemen and security guards of public areas have been closely coordinating for more effective checking of baggage and other belongings of customers.

BIOTERRORISM/ A20

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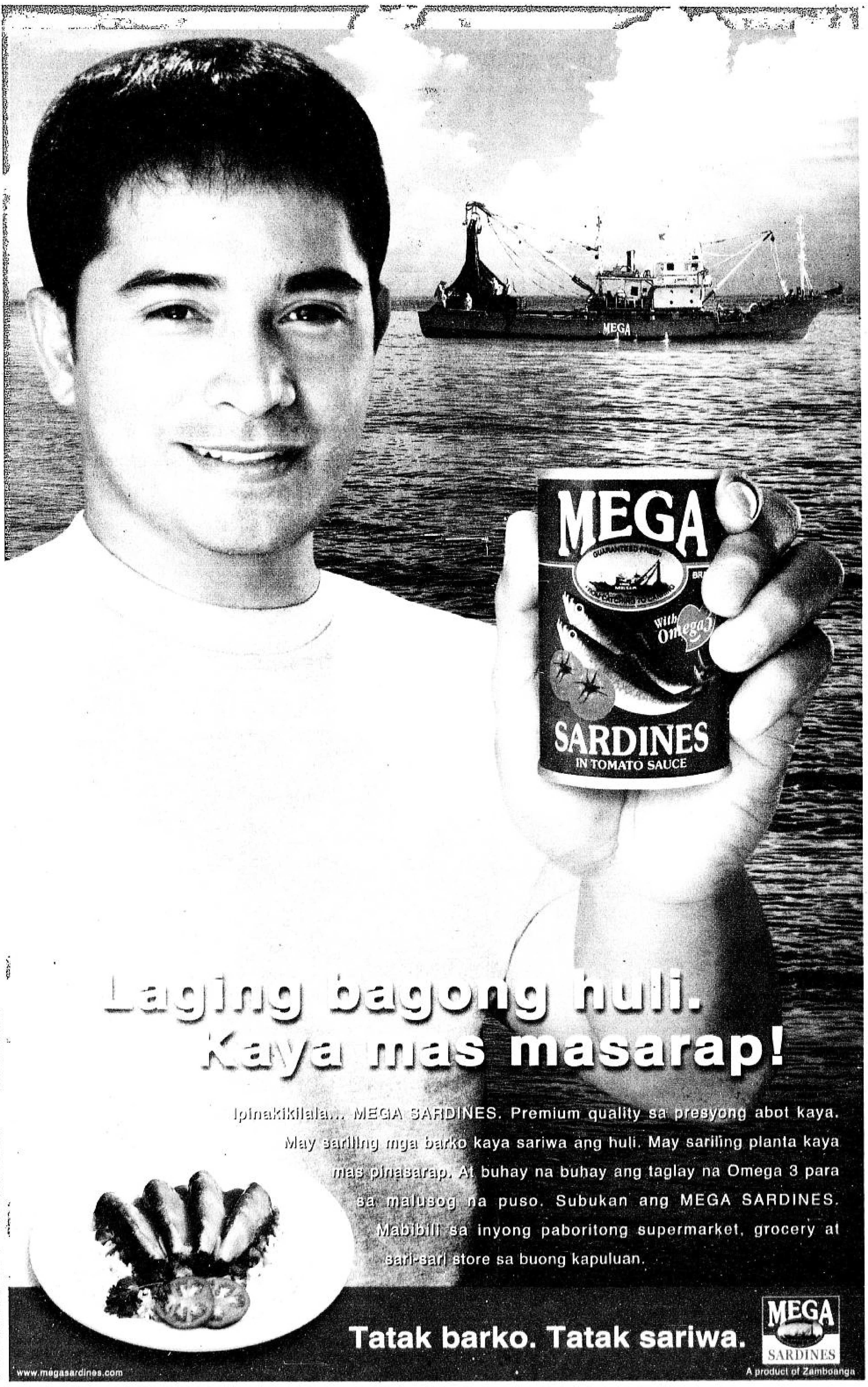

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Kidnappings part of destabilization plot?

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE SPATE of kidnap-for-ransom cases is most probably part of the destabilization plot against the administration of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Most of the victims are Chinoys or Chinese Filipinos who readily pay up instead of reporting to the police.

This writer got hold of an intelligence report some weeks ago that said some members of the Kuratong Baleleng gang would be sent to Metro Manila from Ozamiz City to again engage in kidnapping and robbery. This must be it.

The gang lay low during the time of President Erap after it was given concession by the Estrada government to smuggle rice and sugar in Ozamiz City, where the gang is based.

***

The gang confined itself to robbing banks in Metro Manila before it went into a partnership with Erap and Philippine National Police chief Panfilo "Ping" Lacson, according to a witness under the protection of military intelligence.

When Lacson and his men at the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission (PACC) allegedly killed 11 "Kuratong" members in gangland fashion in 1995, they incurred the ire of the gang boss. The gang boss, now an elected official in Ozamiz, allegedly sent some of his men to assassinate Erap and Lacson.

Fearing for their lives, Lacson and Erap sent emissaries to talk with the gang leader.

***

The witness said that after smoking the peace pipe with the gang leader, the Erap-Lacson tandem convinced the gang not only to go on robbing banks, but also go into kidnapping-for-ransom.

Many readers probably remember hearing or reading about rumors before the 1998 elections that the spate of kidnapping and bank robbery cases was aimed at bankrolling certain political candidates.

The kidnapping cases, however, were controlled by the PACC under then Vice President Erap. "Controlled" means that the victims paid off the kidnappers with the "help" of Erap crony Charlie "Atong" Ang. The witness said Ang negotiated with the kidnappers for the victims' families.

***

Now, let's go back to the spate of kidnap-for-ransom cases.

Hasn't it occurred to you, dear readers, that kidnapping cases practically stopped when Erap took over? Yes, there were some kidnap-for-ransom cases but the kidnappers were not Kuratong members. They were immediately caught.

This is not justifying the inability of the present PNP leadership to resolve kidnap cases, but at least top police officials are not in cahoots with the kidnappers this time.

***

The Macapagal-Arroyo administration should resolve to stop the kidnappings because our economy might grind to a halt if they continue.

Already, a sector in the Chinese community threatens a one-day protest by closing their shops. Another sector says it might support a destabilization plot against the GMA administration.

The President should not ignore these threats. The Chinese community, the most docile and patient group, might rise up in revolt. A patient man's fury is devastating.

***

Authorities made the biggest drug haul so far when P1 billion worth of methamphetamine hychloride (shabu) was intercepted in Quezon province.

A Quezon town mayor was one of those arrested. The big shipment was on board an ambulance which was escorted by the mayor's van.

It was not surprising that a government official was involved. It would have been more surprising if no government official was involved.

During the time of the unlamented Erap regime, such big shipments were "normal."

Remember that drug shipment which was intercepted in Sariaya, Quezon during Erap's time?

An Army soldier testified that a Chinoy who was arrested escorting the shipment allegedly told the soldiers: "*Bakit n'yo hinuhuli ito, eh, kay* Ping (Lacson) *ito?*"

That Army soldier testified during a recent Senate hearing.

Novaliches as landfill site?

BY AGNES DONATO

THE QUEZON City government is considering Novaliches as a possible site for a sanitary landfill to replace the Payatas dumpsite which would be permanently closed in 2003.

Robert Naciancieno, assistant city administrator, said the local government, with the assistance of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, would be exploring the possibility of putting up a sanitary landfill in Novaliches because of its numerous vacant sites.

But Naciancieno stressed the landfill would only complement the composting system, which the city government has adopted as the primary approach to solid waste management.

The controlled dumpsite in Payatas, where Quezon City has been disposing its garbage, is set to be closed in two years' time.

Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. earlier declared Quezon City as "the cleanest city in Metro Manila," in light of the launching of a City Hall-led waste management drive called the "6 O'clock Habit."

Belmonte also announced the city government managed to cut down its budget for solid waste management from more than P700 million a year down to P500 million.

The garbage crisis in Metro Manila hit critical mass in January this year when protesters and concerned residents in the area forced the closure of the San Mateo sanitary landfill.

Now, the same protesters, backed by various cause-oriented groups in the Southern Tagalog Region, have vowed to support residents of Rodriguez town in Rizal province in the fight to keep the government from turning a part of their town into Metro Manila's waste basket.

"We will not agree and we will launch various protest actions to oppose the President's endorsement to go ahead with the plan for a landfill in Montalban, Rizal," said Protect-Montalban and other cause-oriented groups.

Edeliza Ilustre, spokesperson of Protect-Montalban based in Sto. Tomas, Batangas, said the President "should listen to the voice of the people" for "it is clear that the people are opposed to the idea."

"Why is it that the President is now making the decision?" Ilustre asked. "Does this mean that the President knows better than the residents of Montalban themselves?"

Ilustre said that aside from the grave "health and livelihood" problems posed by the presence of a landfill in Montalban, there is also the question of compensation, which the government "failed" to adequately extend to the residents. ***Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Loren wants probe of suspect's VIP treatment

SENATE majority leader Loren Legarda has urged Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo to look into allegations that American Perry Mcneely, a retired airline pilot facing multiple child sexual molestation charges, is enjoying VIP treatment at the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation(BID) jail in Bicutan, Taguig.

"We were told that the suspect has allegedly managed to bribe jail guards who have allowed him to bring teenage commercial sex workers into his cell," Legarda said.

Legarda also said Mcneely, 60, allegedly enjoys other perks, including the personal use of a cellular telephone. She said Mcneely was shown using a cellular telephone in a recent photo of BID detainees that was published in a national newspaper.

"As far as we know, there is a standing rule that prohibits detainees from owning or using cellular telephones," Legarda pointed out.

She said the alleged special treatment had allowed Mcneely to harass his victims and other prosecution witnesses "through remote control."

Because of his cellular telephone and other conveniences, Legarda said Mcneely has allegedly managed to move large bank deposits which he has been using to either try to bribe his victims or to buy false witnesses to testify in his favor.

Mcneely was arrested by the National Bureau of Investigation in a hotel in Lahug, Cebu City in February last year. Various sex gadgets and pornographic materials were seized from two hotel rooms that he rented.

Apart from facing several counts of rape, seduction and sexual molestation charges, Mcneely has been accused of using the Internet to sell pornographic materials of Filipino teenage girls, and of engaging in the illicit mail order bride trade.

Mcneely allegedly lured his victims by paying them cash and promising them trips abroad once they were matched with American pen pals. Other victims were promised modeling careers in foreign magazines.

The criminal cases against Mcneely are now being tried in Cebu City.

Officials cited for solution of rape-slay case

BY NELSON F. FLORES

MARIKINA Mayor Ma. Lourdes Fernando urged government prosecutors to build an airtight case against the seven suspects in the rape and killing of Ma. Cristina Suyo, a 10-year-old grade school pupil, to ensure their conviction.

Fernando made the appeal yesterday as she and the members of the city council led by Vice Mayor Marion Andres commended all city government personnel involved in the solution of the Suyo case and the apprehension of seven suspects.

Fernando said their "dedication to duty and responsiveness and vigilance" deserved recognition.

Commended were PO3 Antonio Sarmiento, PO2 Francisco Arnaiz, Taji Marsan Santos, Zaldy de Mesa, Marikina Heights barangay captain Raul Taytayan, barangay council members Jhonny Cunanan, Mariano Dulay, Rene de Castro, Jhoana Javier, Lucia Cadag, barangay watchmen Ernie Adigue, Fermirico Supan, Job Baduria, Godofredo Yulo, Henry Villarey, Arcadio Abayan, Lolito Mascarinas, Michael Santos, Andrio Tayangona, Oreculo Seccaro, Ronnie Fernando, Ruby Vergara, Erwin de Lim and Salvador Lagaras.

Records showed that their efforts to track down the suspects led to the arrest of suspects including Melvin Arazola, 25, of Barangay Marikina Heights; who, during investigation, admitted his role in the crime.

He said he and his friend Ferdinand Miranda were drunk when they raped and killed the girl.

Miranda, however, denied any involvement in the crime while the rest of the suspects refused to give any statement.

Aside from Arazola, his uncle Cesar Arazola, 51; and cousins Noel Arazola, 20; Rizaldy Arazola, 22; Claro Arazola, 41; and Ritchel Miranda were also arrested.

Police said the girl, a neighbor of Arazola, disappeared on the night of Oct. 5 while on her way to a nearby store. Her naked body, which bore 14 stab wounds, was found the following day in a shallow canal near the Arazola residence.

Police said a trail of blood led the lawmen and local barangay watchmen to the front door of the suspect's house.

They said they found the girl's bloodied underwear, sandals and shorts inside the Arazola residence. They also allegedly found scratch marks on the suspect and his friend Ferdinand.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, October 16, 2001
28th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **Rom 1:16-25**
Gospel: **Lk 11:37-41**

As Jesus was speaking, a Pharisee asked him to have a meal with him. So he went and sat at table. The Pharisee then wondered why Jesus did not first wash his hands before dinner. But the Lord said to him, "So then, you Pharisees, you clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside yourselves you are full of greed and evil. Fools! He who made the outside, also made the inside. But according to you, by the mere giving of alms everything is made clean."

Commentary

The religious people in the time of our Lord took life in God seriously. But their greatest mistake was that they accepted the word according to their own interpretation. And so, salvation became a matter of external piety and ritual purity. They thought they knew God, but actually their God was their own creation according to their needs and practice of the law. They took God in their own terms. They could not see God in Jesus present then and there. God searches the heart. The heart proves whether the human person is honest or fake before God. Yet Luke concludes with still a ray of hope, if what is acquired through greed is given as alms for the poor.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites:http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Payment of docket fee is a jurisdictional requirement—Although the payment of the prescribed docket fees is a jurisdictional requirement, its non-payment does not result in the automatic dismissal of the case provided the docket fees are paid within the applicable prescriptive or reglementary period. In the case at bar, it has not been alleged by respondent and there is nothing in the records to show that petitioner has attempted to evade the payment of the proper docket fees for her permissive counterclaim. As a matter of fact, after respondent filed its motion to dismiss petitioner's counterclaim based on her failure to pay docket fees, petitioner immediately filed a motion with the trial court, asking it to declare her counterclaim as compulsory in nature and therefore exempt from docket fees and, in addition, to declare that respondent was in default for its failure to answer her counterclaim. Pursuant to this Court's ruling in Sun Insurance Office Ltd. v. Hon. Asuncion (170 SCRA 274 [1989]), the trial court should have instead given petitioner a reasonable time, but in no case beyond the applicable prescriptive or reglementary period, to pay the filing fees for her permissive counterclaim. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Gonzaga-Reyes, Third Division, Alday v. FGU Insurance Corporation, G.R. No. 138822, January 23, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

ANOTHER STAR FADES OUT DENNIS SABANGAN

The remains of Eddie Rodriguez, star and director of a number of fine film dramas since the '60s, lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels in Makati City. The girl in black is his daughter Chin-Chin, one of his four children.

'I am coming home to defend my honor'

FORMER suspected drug lord Alfredo Tiongco threatened to file libel charges against Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo as soon as he arrives from China for her statement that two alleged Chinese shabu chemists arrested by BI agents were working for him.

"I'm coming home to defend my honor and that of my family at all costs," Tiongco said in a press statement issued by his counsel Oliver Lozano. "I am coming home to help my worried workers, especially in these hard and perilous times."

Tiongco added: "Besides, after my acquittal, Commissioner Domingo asked for a 'big assistance' for the benefit of the people of Pampanga which I granted with (sic) conformity of my wife and children." He did not elaborate.

He was referring to the arrest of Liu San Lun and Yu Jim Bao, employees at the Tiongco High Tech Construction Materials Corp. in San Jose, Lubao, Pampanga.

Liu and Yu could not present residency papers when arrested by BI agents Thursday night at the Dimarucut Lumber Compound in Sta. Cruz, Lubao, which Tiongco also owns.

In 1997, police arrested Yu at Tiongco's hollow block factory, which was suspected to be a shabu laboratory. Yu, however, was not charged but was eventually freed.

Tiongco was charged with drug possession in 1993 after a cache of shabu was found in a fishing boat he allegedly owned at the Navotas fish port. But a Quezon City court dismissed the case six years later for lack of evidence.

METROBRIEFS

2 men shot dead in Manila

TWO men were shot dead in two incidents in Manila Sunday night and before dawn yesterday. Michael T. Hermoso, 24, a resident of Binondo, did not get to finish his last bottle of beer because a man identified only as Bong shot him in the head, said SPO1 Raul Olivario of the Western Police District-homicide section. The suspect was described as about 5-foot-4, medium built, brown complexioned and sporting curly hair, Olivario said. He said Hermoso and his friends were drinking in front of 765 Sevilla St. in Binondo when the gunman struck around 12:30 a.m. The suspect ran away after the shooting. Businessman Adrian T. Claros, 35, was shot in the head Sunday night while watching a billiard game in Tondo. One of three men, who was identified only as Dodong, shot him thrice inside a billiard hall at Area H Gate 56 in Parola Compound in Tondo, said investigator SPO1 Edmundo Cabal of the Western Police District-homicide section. ***Philip C. Tubeza***

Presidential guard beats up wife

ARMY Capt. Marlon V. Belarmino was trained to protect the highest-ranking woman in the land, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. But over the weekend, Belarmino was accused of beating up his own wife. Cristine E. Belarmino, 24, of San Juan, Metro Manila, filed charges of physical injuries against the captain, her estranged husband, for beating her up, said investigator SPO3 Cecillo T. Sacarom of the Western Police District general assignment section. The complainant allegedly wanted to separate from her husband but the soldier would hear none of it. Police said the woman arrived from Cotabato on Saturday and went to their home to get her personal belongings. But the soldier allegedly forbade her to get her things because he did not want her to leave. The confrontation got so heated that the soldier blew his top and punched and kicked his wife, police said. The woman went to the Philippine General Hospital for treatment of bruises and then went to the WPD headquarters to file a complaint against her husband. ***Philip C. Tubeza***

Man stabbed over gum habit

BUSINESSMAN Alberto Arbal, 34, on Sunday stabbed to death Rommel de Guzman, 21, all because the victim had a habit of sticking gum in the coin slots of video machines. Arbal, of Propetarios Street, Pasay City, was playing video games at Cartimar Shopping Market on Leveriza Street, when he got into an argument with his neighbor, de Guzman. SPO1 Chris Gabutin, of the Pasay Criminal Investigation Division, said Arbal blew his top, took a knife and stabbed de Guzman twice on the chest. Gabutin said the victim had the habit of vandalizing video machines just to tease other playing customers. ***Christian V. Esguerra***

2 sisters busted for selling drugs

THE LONG arm of the law finally caught up with two sisters whom Makati police arrested last Saturday for selling drugs.

Insp. Gary Reyes, chief of the Makati City Police Drug Enforcement Unit, identified them as Susan, 32, and Belen de Jesus, 40, both of the same address in Barangay Sta. Cruz, Makati City.

Reyes said the two were arrested at their residence after they sold shabu to a policeman posing as a buyer. Susan tried to slip out of the house but policemen guarding the rear managed to catch her, the investigator said.

Three alleged drug users were caught in a shabu session in the house, Reyes said. They were identified as Cecille Cuenca, 35, Ernesto Garcia, 22, and Rolito Morales. ***Alcuin Papa***

'Police merely . . .

(From page A19)

Charged with violation of Section 21 of Republic Act No. 6425 were Stewart McDonald, 27; Aljor Castro, 43; Jayson Johnson Jeffrey, 34; Oliver Villar, 29; Mel Santos, 27; Jovy Crispala, 21; and Anton Garcia, 21.

Brothers Marvin and Joseph Vernie Ducat; Madilyne Sandra de Vera; Jacqueline Ulnangan, 24; Analisa San Juan, 27; and Philip Glass Murphy, 34, said to be an overstaying American, were charged with possession of 1.04 grams of Ecstasy.

A separate charge of violation of Section 15 of RA 6425 was filed against Marvin Ducat for allegedly selling 0.16 grams of shabu.

Ducat was also ordered to pay another P80,000 in bail for a case of illegal possession of firearm.

Authorities found on Ducat a .45 automatic pistol during the raid on his house last Friday by members of the NCRPO Regional Intelligence and Special Operations Office (Risoo).

Also seized during the raid were 39 suspected Ecstasy pills and about P77,000 in cash.

A pill of Ecstasy has a street value of between P700 and P1,500, police said.

Baby Asistio . . .

(From page A19)

When they asked him to lift his shirt, two sachets containing the crystalline substance fell off, they alleged. The substance was later found to be shabu.

Asistio denied the allegations in court and said the illegal drugs were planted.

The suspect maintained he was framed, saying his arrest was politically motivated and the arresting officers were aligned with his father's political rival, Caloocan Mayor Rey Malonzo.

But the court junked Asistio's claims and gave full credence to the arresting policemen's testimonies.

Bioterrorism? We're . . .

(From page A19)

"So far, the public has been cooperative with the security measures that we have been implementing," Sales said.

Police went on heightened alert after the US-led military strikes on Afghanistan and the anthrax exposures in Florida.

Robert Stevens, 63, a photo editor of The Sun, died from anthrax.

American authorities believe the anthrax strain was spread in the United States through a letter sent to Florida.

Sales admitted there is a risk of transmitting deadly bacteria such as anthrax through letters. He said it would be up to postal authorities to implement appropriate security measures.

Manila to restore Liwasan grandeur

By Jerome Aning

A GENUINE public plaza worthy of being named after a national hero. This is the Manila city government's vision for Liwasang Bonifacio.

The city government yesterday bared another plan to redevelop one of the capital's major landmarks.

The square, Mayor Lito Atienza said, is part of his Central Manila Redevelopment Plan (CMRP), which aims to spur the revival of the old "downtown Manila" and various areas along the banks of the Pasig River.

In a press statement, Atienza said Liwasang Bonifacio "has practically ceased to function" as a public plaza as it is currently being used as a giant terminal by passenger buses, jeepneys and FX taxicabs.

"To liberate the plaza and restore its grandeur," the mayor said the terminal would be relocated to the new multistory parking facility at the back of the Metropolitan Theater, which is expected to be opened by Christmas.

Atienza also assured that the character of Liwasang Bonifacio plaza would be preserved. He said the city government would enlist the "active participation" of the National Historical Institute, various private conservation groups and the Philippine Postal Corp., which owns the Central Post Office building on the south side of the plaza.

Based on the CMRP blueprint shown to reporters, the bronze Bonifacio statue will be placed on a new pedestal. The monument will be enhanced by a new water fountain to be installed behind it.

Mini-sculpture parks with benches will be also placed in the plaza.

Several trees will have to be replanted in the east and west sides so that the central area can be maintained as an open space and provide an unimpeded view of the plaza and the post office building.

Atienza said he hopes the renovation would encourage people, especially tourists, to go to Liwasang Bonifacio any time of the day and be able to appreciate its beauty.

"We want it to be safe, bright and spacious, a place where people can sit and walk around," the mayor added.

The square is formerly known as Plaza Lawton, named after Henry Lawton's military officer killed at the turn of the century by Gen. Licerio Geronimo in the Battle of San Mateo during the Philippine-American War.

Some historians had proposed that a separate monument to honor Geronimo be placed in the plaza.

Aside from Liwasang Bonifacio, other areas along the Pasig River that have been slated for development include the riverside zones, near the Bureao of Immigration building and San Nicolas in Binondo, Mehan Garden, LRT Central Station-Metropolitan Theater triangle, and the Quiapo-Sta. Cruz district.

Sick girl needs help

SHAENA San Diego, who is only 1 year old, has been suffering from bronchopneumonia and needs medication daily.

Her parents Erwin and Shiela, however, are both out of work and so cannot afford her medicines.

The San Diegos live at 205 Rose St., Purok 4, Pineda, Pasig City.

Kind readers who may wish to help may also call Beth Andres at 897-4797.

CPD officers reshuffled

By Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

THE CENTRAL Police District yesterday announced a major revamp involving 9 of the 11 police station chiefs in Quezon City.

This is the first time CPD director Chief Supt. Rodolfo Tor ordered a revamp since he assumed the post in July.

In announcing the changes, Tor expressed optimism that the reassignment of key police officials would "further enhance the operational readiness" of the district.

The revamp took effect yesterday.

Supt. Freddie Panen, formerly of the district operations and plans division, was designated station commander of Police Station 1 in La Loma. Supt. Philmore Balmaceda, formerly of the district headquarters support unit, was named station 2 commander. Supt Armando Amparo, formerly of the district mobile group, was named officer-in-charge of Station 11.

Supt. Rosendo Franco moved from station 3 to station 7, Supt. Salvador Duran, from station 7 to station 8, and Supt Benedicto Lopez, from station 8 to station 3.

Supt. Donato Orio will now head the district headquarters' support unit, Supt. Renato Valebia will take over the district mobile group, and Supt. Jerome Pagaragan will assume the district operations and plans division post vacated by Panen.

"The police stations and mobile patrol units under the new leadership shall (concentrate their efforts) in preventing crime in identified high risk and crime prone areas," Tor said in a press conference yesterday.

"The district intelligence and investigation division, criminal investigation and the district police intelligence unit, will track down the suspects in the spate of robberies and other heinous crimes," he added.

Apart from the reorganization, Tor also announced 60 anti-terrorist members of the Regional Mobile Group from the National Capital Region Police Office would augment the CPD force.

Tor said while statistics show a rise in criminal incidents with the approach of the Christmas season, he maintained crime prevention is possible.

"We can prevent the occurrence of crimes for as long as we have dedicated policemen religiously performing their assigned duties," he said.

A series of robberies and murders hit Quezon City over the past three weeks.

Connie Wong, sister-in-law of Uratex owner Robert Cheng, was kidnapped and killed in Quezon City. Her body was dumped in Valenzuela.

A few days later, two ambush-slays occurred in the city only a day apart.

But Chief Insp. Bart Bustamante, Tor's action officer, said police already have enough leads to arrest the killers of Chinese-Filipino businessmen Nelson Gabaldon and Ernesto Cheng Vergara.

Vendors hope City Hall project would make them legit

By Jerome Aning

SOME illegal vendors along Recto Avenue and the Divisoria area in Manila have stayed on one spot for 30 years and they now think they own the place.

Even if the Manila government has made plans for them to relocate at permanent sites and legitimate stalls on side streets, only a few of the hundreds of vendors have registered with the Manila Hawkers Permits and Services for relocation.

Only 12 of the 50 to 70 vendors along Recto Avenue have registered with the agency, said its head, Adil Khan.

He said these previously illegal vendors now have legitimate stalls on Caromina and Severino Reyes Streets, off Recto Avenue.

Khan is hoping that more hawkers would legitimize their trade with city hall's construction of permanent stalls.

The continuing crackdown against illegal sidewalk vendors would also convince these hawkers to turn legal, Khan said.

The city government's Task Force Zero Obstruction has recommended the relocation of hundreds of both legal and illegal stalls along Recto in the University Belt area and Juan Luna and Ilaya Streets in Divisoria to ease up vehicular and pedestrian traffic congestion.

The MHPS is a member of the task force.

But Khan stressed that Manila Mayor Lito Atienza's crackdown against illegal vendors does not mean "zero sidewalk vending."

"What he is after is the recognition of sidewalk vending as a legitimate and honorable means of livelihood," Khan said.

The MHPS was tasked to look for side streets where legal hawkers, stalls could be relocated.

Despite city hall's directive that only newspaper and magazine stands are allowed to operate on the sidewalk on Recto Avenue, stalls selling second-hand books, audio and video disks continue to ply their trade at the university belt.

"Some of the vendors we encountered said they have been maintaining their stalls for the past 30 years, and they thought that gave them a right to own the place and stay (there) for good," Khan said.

To be in business, illegal vendors only have to secure a barangay clearance by presenting their voter's affidavit, pay P948.80 minimum hawker's fee and P20 daily.

But Khan admitted that not all vendors applying for legitimate stalls on the side streets designated for vending would be accommodated.

He said his office is currently processing the application of about 600 Muslim vendors who wanted stalls in the Divisoria area, which he said would be impossible to accommodate.

The number of stalls would also be limited since not all side streets could be opened to hawkers, Khan said.

He said that city hall's organized and monitored vending program would give security and stability to the vendor's businesses in the long run.

"They wouldn't have to pay 'tong' (extort money) to scrupulous policemen or the syndicates," Khan said.

New water rate cheaper than illegal rates–Maynilad

MAYNILAD Water Services Inc.'s new water rates that will take effect on Oct. 20, 2001 will have minimal impact on the water bills of residents of blighted communities who are part of the water firm's "Bayan Tubig" program, according to Maynilad.

Bayan Tubig is the company's socialized water delivery system which provides residents of blighted communities with their own water service connections.

Maynilad pointed out that for a water consumption of 10 cubic meters (one cubic meter is equivalent to 1,000 liters) or less, Bayan Tubig consumers will pay P36 or P3.63 per cubic meter under the new water rates, an increase of P14.17.

Under the old rates, the same consumers were paying P2.22 per cubic meter or P22.15 for 10 cubic meters of water.

The program's beneficiaries were among those who expressed support for Maynilad's petition for a rate increase in the series of public consultations and hearings held on the issue, according to Maynilad. They argued that even with the rate increase, Maynilad water would still be 20 to 30 times cheaper than water being sold by *aguadors*.

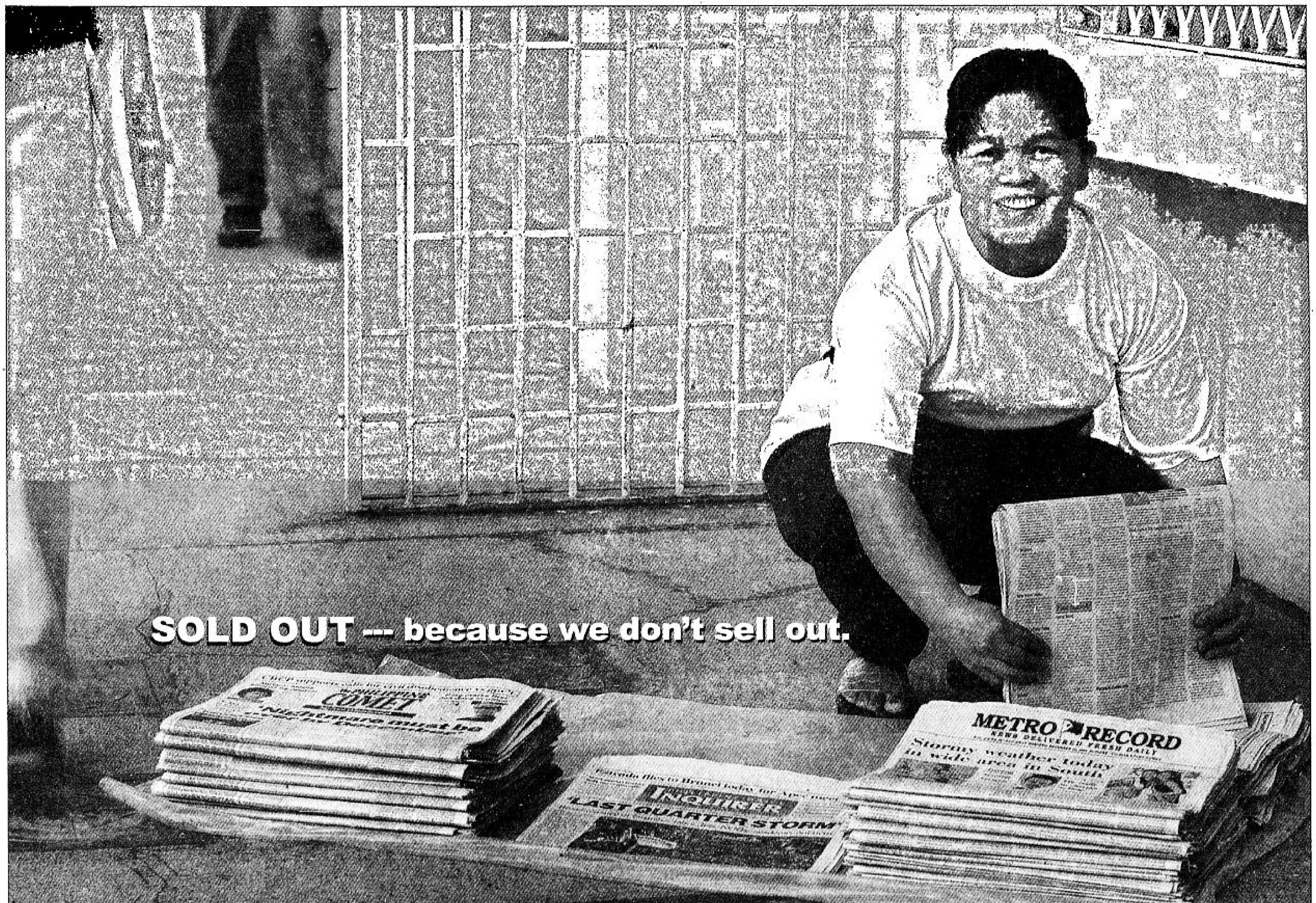
Ruben Gutlay, president of the Parola Water Association in Parola, Tondo, said that before Bayan Tubig, they were paying as much as P1,000 a month for blackmarket water, whose safety and quality they were not even assured. Under Bayan Tubig, Gutlay's water bills dropped to as low as P40 to P60 a month.

The Bayan Tubig program has been implemented in 208 barangays in Tondo.

Antonio Reyes, president of the Kapisanan ng Anak-Dalita of Serrano, Marulas, Valenzuela, said his group also favored the water rate increase and thanked Maynilad for giving them access to safe, affordable water through Bayan Tubig.

Lilia Asis, a resident of Payatas, Quezon City, was among those from blighted communities not yet connected to Maynilad who pressed the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System for the early approval of Maynilad's petition, said Maynilad. Asis said the water rate increase would facilitate the expansion of Maynilad's water service to Payatas.

She said that up to now, Payatas residents buy water from vendors at P180 per cubic meter, versus the old Maynilad rate of P2.22 per cubic meter.



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7	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA THX (Makati City) tel 751.2011 to13

1	LEGALLY BLONDE

Center Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	ENEMY AT THE GATES

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC. tel 930.9515

1	RESERVE
2	MANANABAS
3	LAST ERUPTION

Spring (Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	SEX MEDUSA
A	HULI SA AKTO

Sunshine (FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2	MANANABAS
3	PUKYUTAN
4	LEGALLY BLONDE

GOTESCO CINEMA

City (Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	MANANABAS
2	SISID
3	RESERVE
4	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
5	OSMOSIS JONES
6	MARITAL RAPE
7 (DTS)	LEGALLY BLONDE
8 (SDDS)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
9 (DOLBY)	13 DAYS

Caloocan tel 362.3508

2	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

Grand Central (Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2	MANANABAS
3	MANANABAS
4 (SDDS)	LEGALLY BLONDE
5	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
6 (DOLBY)	MARITAL RAPE
7 (DTS)	OSMOSIS JONES
8	SISID
9	RESERVE

Commonwealth tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	OSMOSIS JONES
2	MANANABAS
3	MARITAL RAPE
4	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
5 (SDDS)	13 DAYS
6	LEGALLY BLONDE
7 (DOLBY)	THE HOLE
8	RESERVE

Ortigas tel 656.6795

1	MANANABAS
2	LEGALLY BLONDE
3 (DTS)	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
4	MARITAL RAPE
5 (SDDS)	OSMOSIS JONES

Universal (Manila) tel 733.2470

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

Sampaguita (Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	HULI SA AKTO

Dilson (Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	HULI SA AKTO
Lords	MARITAL RAPE
Jennet	

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	MANANABAS
2	SANGGANO'T SANGGADO
3	OSMOSIS JONES

Prima (Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2	13 DAYS
3	MARITAL RAPE
4	MANANABAS
5	OSMOSIS JONES

New Divisoria Mall DIVISORIA CINEMA tel 244.4619

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2	MANANABAS
3	LEGALLY BLONDE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	MARITAL RAPE

Baclaran LRT LRT CINEMA tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	RESERVE
2	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3	MARITAL RAPE

Berma tel 879.2029

1	HULI SA AKTO
2	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

CitiMall (Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2	MANANABAS
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall (Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	MANANABAS
2	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3 (DTS)	LEGALLY BLONDE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	MANANABAS
2 (DTS)	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3 (DOLBY)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4	LEGALLY BLONDE

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2 (DOLBY)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
3 (DTS)	MANANABAS
4	LEGALLY BLONDE

Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	FAST & FURIOUS
2	SISID
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	13 DAYS
2	MANANABAS
3	MARITAL RAPE
4 (DTS)	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	LEGALLY BLONDE
2	MANANABAS
3 (DTS)	MARITAL RAPE
4	SISID
5	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

Olivarez Tri-Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2	LEGALLY BLONDE
3	MANANABAS

Olivarez Los Baños tel (049) 536.5101

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
2	MANANABAS
3	MARITAL RAPE

Olivarez Tagaytay tel (046) 413.0311

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	ENEMY AT THE GATES
3	SEX MEDUSA

Morales Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	MANANABAS
2	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3	RANGING FORCE

Cabuyao (Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	MANANABAS
2 (DTS)	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

Fourstep (Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

Emperor (Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	MANANABAS
2	ENEMY AT THE GATES
3	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

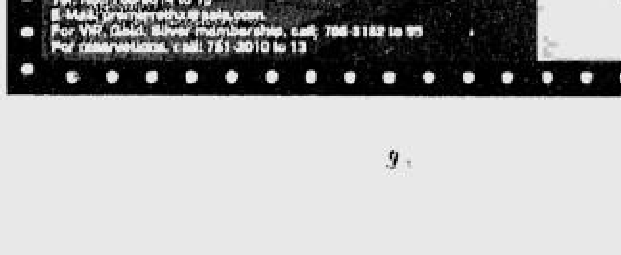
1	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
2	ST. FRANCISVILLE
3	HEART BREAKER
4	FAST & FURIOUS

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
2	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
3	RESERVE
4 (DTS ES)	ST. FRANCISVILLE

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS



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1 THX	13 DAYS
2	13 DAYS
3	THE HOLE
4	OSMOSIS JONES
5	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
6	HEARTBREAKER
7	FAST & FURIOUS
8	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
9	MARITAL RAPE
10	ST. FRANCISVILLE

ERMITA 536-7809 TO 12

1	13 DAYS
2	THE HOLE
3	ST. FRANCISVILLE
4	OSMOSIS JONES
5	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
6	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
7	HEARTBREAKER

NOVALICHES 935-3229 TO 31

1	RESERVE
2	OSMOSIS JONES
3	LAST ERUPTION
4	OSMOSIS JONES
5	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
6	RESERVE
7	13 DAYS
8	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

IMUS (046) 471-8168

1	13 DAYS
2	OSMOSIS JONES
3	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
4	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
5	MARITAL RAPE
6	SISID

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453

1	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	ORIGINAL SIN
3	ST. FRANCISVILLE
4	FINDING FORRESTER
5	LA VIDA ROSA
6	RUSH HOUR 2

SOON TO OPEN

METRO EAST
SAN FERNANDO PAMPANGA
ILOILO

THX dts SDDS DOLBY DIGITAL DOLBY STEREO

SMART MONEY ACCEPTED AT ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD GALLERIA AND ERMITA.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	MARITAL RAPE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	13 DAYS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	OSMOSIS JONES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	LAST ERUPTION
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	THE HOLE
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	HULI SA AKTO
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	RED DIARIES / ONE NIGHT AT MC COOLS
ODEON	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
ODEON-2	SISID
ROBEN	MARITAL RAPE
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	JURASIC PARK 3 / STICK MAN
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	MARITAL RAPE
REMAR	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
REMAR-2	SISID
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
B	SISID
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CINE EUROPA 4
CINEMA-2	OSMOSIS JONES
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MR. NICE GUY
CINEMA-2	SISID
CINEMA-3	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ST. FRANCISVILLE
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	FAST & FURIOUS
CINEMA-6	MARITAL RAPE
CINEMA-7	LA VIDA ROSA
CINEMA-8	HULI SA AKTO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	OSMOSIS JONES
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	13 DAYS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
CINEMA-12	THE HOLE
CINEMA-14	LAST ERUPTION
CINEMA-15	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
CINEMA-2	OSMOSIS JONES
CINEMA-3	LEGALLY BLONDE
CINEMA-4	HEARTBREAKERS
CINEMA-5	THE HOLE
CINEMA-6	THIRTEEN DAYS
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	RESERVE
CINEMA-2	RESERVE
CINEMA-4	RESERVE
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	IKAW LAMANG
CINEMA-2	LAGING SARIWA ANG SUGAT
CINEMA-4	KALARO

New . . .

(From page A23)

Tru-Orange with **Francis Magalona**.

As a cinematographer, he worked for director **Carlitos Siguion-Reyna** in the **Rosanna Roces** sex-drama "Ang Lalaki sa Buhay ni Selya."

He directed the steamy love scene in **Peque Gallaga's** "Deliryo," which starred **Joemari Yllana** and Giselle Toengi.

Aside from directing "Balahibong Pusa," Yam also wrote the screenplay.

His second movie was the comedy-thriller, "Radyo," starring Rufa Mae and **Jeffrey Quizon**. He also directed Sharon in the megastar's music video for "Nothing I Want More."

First-time director Eric Matti introduced a daring **Joyce Jimenez** to the bold wagon in "Scorpio Nights 2," shown in 1999. Only 30, Eric trained under the famous tandem of **Peque Gallaga** and **Lore Reyes** after he graduated from the University of St. La Salle in Bacolod City.

Eric was assistant director to Gallaga and Reyes in several TV commercials. In the movies, his credits with the duo include "Halik ng Bampira," "Deliryo," "Magic Kingdom" and the critically acclaimed "Gangland" which he also wrote with the two directors.

After "Gangland" earned raves and awards here and abroad, Gallaga and Reyes knew that Eric was ready for his first film. Gallaga entrusted to the young director the sequel of one of his (Gallaga) best-known works, "Scorpio Nights."

After Eric made his mark in "Scorpio Nights 2," Viva Productions assigned him to direct "Ekis" with **Sunshine Cruz**, the fantasy-drama-comedy "Ang Pagbabalik ni Pedro Penduko" with **Janno Gibbs** and the romantic-drama, "Sa Huling Paghihintay," with Rica and **Bernard Palanca**.

Dwight Gaston is the newest kid on the director's block. He made his directorial debut in the recent comedy, "Banyo Queen," which topbilled **Andrew E.** and Rica.

Named after American president **Dwight Eisenhower**, Dwight is an AB mass communications graduate from La Salle Bacolod. Prior to his filmmaking venture, he played the drums for the rock band Martial Law Babies and wrote music for the TV kiddie show "Batibot." He also wrote the screenplay for two "Shake, Rattle and Roll" episodes.

Some people may still remember Al Tantay for his beefcake scenes in his earlier movies. He shifted to TV and directed such top-raters as "Wow Mali!" and "Tropang Trumpo."

Last year, Viva Productions gave him a free hand to direct the comedy "Mana-Mana," starring Andrew E. and **Bayani Agbayani**. This was immediately followed by another comedy, "Juan en Ted," which paired for the first time young comedians Andrew E. and Janno Gibbs; and "Baliktaran" with Bayani and Rufa Mae.

Then Al was asked to direct veteran actor-director Eddie Garcia in the action-comedy "Sanggano at Sanggago," which also stars Bayani. The movie is now theaters.

After split-up, Ryan Agoncillo turns to food and music

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

I HAD the time of my life with my dashing date **Rico T. He** has a striking resemblance to **Aga M.**; pardon the braggadocio. I could use a little inspiration now and then, especially when I get brain drain.

The date was at the opening of **Ryan Agoncillo**'s bar-resto Mazzo in Libis. It's a Moroccan-inspired restaurant featuring Mediterranean flavors and sounds.

Mazzo is primarily a restaurant. It takes pride in the food, especially the pastas and pizzas, sea platters and Turkish grilled chicken, to name a few.

Distinctly Mazzo music will be provided by Groove Nation with the popular DJs taking care of the sound which is music for dining and then after, Latin-inspired music and samba that can make everyone groove.

Ryan was brimming with excitement as he and his partners unveiled their "Maz-zoterpiece."

I cornered Ryan and asked him, "No date on this special night?"

He beamed. "After splitting up with my long-time girlfriend, Mazzo is my newest therapy. I don't want to fall in love again for now. I'll just divert my time and focus to this venture."

"Why Mazzo?"

"Mazzo is a famous expression in Europe. Like when we see a nice car or a pretty girl, we blurt out, 'Awesome' or 'Wow.' I'll make it a point to personally supervise the operations so if people want to catch me they will surely find me in Mazzo every night."

The place is right below a popular bar, Po Na Na. Is Mazzo all set for the competition?

The adorable TV host and model admitted, "Po Na Na is already established. I told **Hans Montenegro**, who's with Po Na Na, that we will keep it a healthy competition. Eventually we will benefit from each other because both bars will get spillover crowds from the other. I even invited Hans to come tonight. Just like in show biz, competition keeps you on your toes."

Some of Ryan's celebrity guests were his "Talk TV" cohosts **Tintin Bersola, Julius Babao** and **Janet Mcbride** (minus boyfriend **Mo Twister** who was sick that night). **Lyn Ching** and her boyfriend, and **Suzi** and **Paolo Abrera** were also around.

Congrats, my dear *amigo* Ryan! May Mazzo bring you *mucho dinero y alegria*!

***

MY good friend **Adjeng Sarmiento**, who writes for MusicManila.com, shared with me her comments about **Basil Valdez** and **Ryan Cayabyab**'s show at the Captain's Bar of Mandarin Oriental.

Let's hear it from Adjeng: "It was such a moving experience to see Basil and Ryan perform together after a long while. Some people in the audience were even crying because there were moments when Basil could not reach the high notes the way he used to due to his throat surgery some years back. Yet the signature Basil style and sound were still very much evident. He was humble enough to say 'I thought I would not be able to finish that song. Sorry for some flats and sharps.'

"Basil has nothing to be apologetic about. He is still The Basil Valdez. Truly the recent Lifetime Achievement award given to him by the Aliw awards is a well-deserved one."

My sentiments exactly, Adjeng. Despite the flats and sharps, Basil is one singer whose impact will never turn flat and his name will forever be sharp in our memories.

Readers write

I'LL let you in on some juicy e-mail I got this week from some readers, but I have to protect their privacy. One is about the lingering mystery about **Dingdong Dantes'** "dark secrets."

Enjoy, voyeurs and eavesdroppers!

"Hi, Ms Dolly!

"I definitely agree with what your sources told you about Dingdong Dantes because I have a friend who is a friend of Dingdong's. She told me that Dingdong is a nice person but all the news about him, especially his deepest, darkest secrets is 100 percent true because all the sources in that site you mentioned are reliable.

I checked that site and I agree because I saw Dingdong with a non-show biz girl last April. You can also check *www.pinoyexchange.com* because there's another site about him, same thing . . . his secrets. It's alarming already because he's fooling a lot people saying that his loyal and honest to **Antoinette Taus** when in fact, it's really been a long time that he's really making *loko* to Antoinette. Poor girl. I heard there are guys who want to court her.

Name withheld upon request

New directors . . .

(From page A24)

Joyce started as an apprentice to film editor **Ike Jarlego Jr.** when she was still a student of film and audio-visual communication at the University of the Philippines. She worked with director **Eddie Garcia** on the **Vilma Santos-Christopher de Leon** starrer, "Imortal."

What was initially just a requirement for her college course turned out to be a way of life for Joyce. Soon, she found herself logging in more hours on the cutting room floor.

She has lost track of the films and trailers she has put together. She takes pride in having worked on the award-winning biopic, **Joel Lamangan's** "The Flor Contemplacion Story." Her editing work earned for her a Star Award.

Her "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw," a romantic comedy starring **Robin Padilla** and **Regine Velasquez**, turned out to be one of last year's blockbusters.

"Pangako sa 'Yo," with **Aga Muhlach** and Regine Velasquez, also earned millions at the tills early this year. Joyce was also at the helm of an earlier Aga-Regine starrer, "Dahil May Isang Ikaw."

Joyce has delivered other moneymakers for Viva, like "I'm Sorry My Love" with **Judy Ann Santos**, "Booba" with **Rufa Mae Quinto** and "Buhay Kamao" with Robin. She is now working on another romantic comedy which marks the screen reunion of Robin and **Sharon Cuneta**.

Yam Laranas started the year with his directorial debut, "Balahibong Pusa," a tale of obsessive sexual attraction that launched **Rica Peralejo** to solo stardom.

Yam, 32, a scholar of the Mowelfund Film Institute, first made his mark as a short film director. His "Death of a Butterfly" was adjudged best experimental video in the Brussels Film Festival and also won the best short film award from the Film Academy of the Philippines in 1990.

Before turning to directing full-length movies, he worked on a number of TV commercials, including those for Red Bull with Belgian action star **Jean-Claude Van Damme**, Manila Bank with **Eddie Garcia**, Head and Shoulders with **Giselle Toengi**, Presto Ice Cream with **Pops Fernandez**, Agfa with **Richard Gomez** and Royal

NEW/ A22

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

1	2	3
AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS - P 13 11:00, 1:10, 3:25, 5:40, 7:55, 10:10	OSMOSIS JONES - GP 11:05, 1:20, 3:15, 5:20, 7:25, 9:30	LEGALLY BLONDE - P 13 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
HEARTBREAKERS - P 13 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45	THE HOLE - R 18 11:45, 2:10, 4:35, 7:00, 9:30	THIRTEEN DAYS - P 13 12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:40

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri.,11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

"KATE HUDSON SHINES!"
"TWO THUMBS UP!"
about Adam

AYALA CINEMAS
ARTFILM · GLORIETTA 4
OPENS TOMORROW
Art Film
MTRCB RATING ▶ R Restricted
Strictly for ADULTS.
'No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.
PHILIPPINE PREMIERE
stuart TOWNSEND frances O'CONNOR charlotte BRADLEY & kate HUDSON
He's the most outrageous secret three sisters ever kept... from each other.
about Adam
A Romantic Comedy About A Tale Of Familial Sexual Intrigue
Lucy Owens has terrible luck in love. While doing her routine of singing torch songs, waiting tables, and complaining about her love life, she meets Adam. The two exchange just one look and Lucy is ready to marry him. However, Adam proves to be unpredictable as he sets out to date Lucy's sisters, Alice and Laura. A waitress falls for a handsome customer who seduces her, her two sisters, her brother, and her brother's girlfriend.
Featured at the Sundance Film Festival.

MTRCB RATING ▶ R RESTRICTED
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No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.
NO.1 MOVIE IN AMERICA FOR 3 WEEKS!
OVER $140 MILLION AND COUNTING!
BIGGER AND BETTER THAN THE ORIGINAL!
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VICKY · OZ · JESSICA · HEATHER · JIM'S DAD

THE OUTRAGEOUS ADVENTURES CONTINUE!
united international pictures
VIVA
OPENS OCT. 17

MTRCB RATING ▶ R RESTRICTED
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IT'S SHOWTIME!!!
aya medel gerald madrid sheila ysrael pinky amador anita linda roy alvarez and allen dizon stella l. pamela ortiz
naked nights
malayo pa ang umaga
WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY JOVEN M. TAN
FLT FILMS INTERNATIONAL

MTRCB Rating ▶ PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

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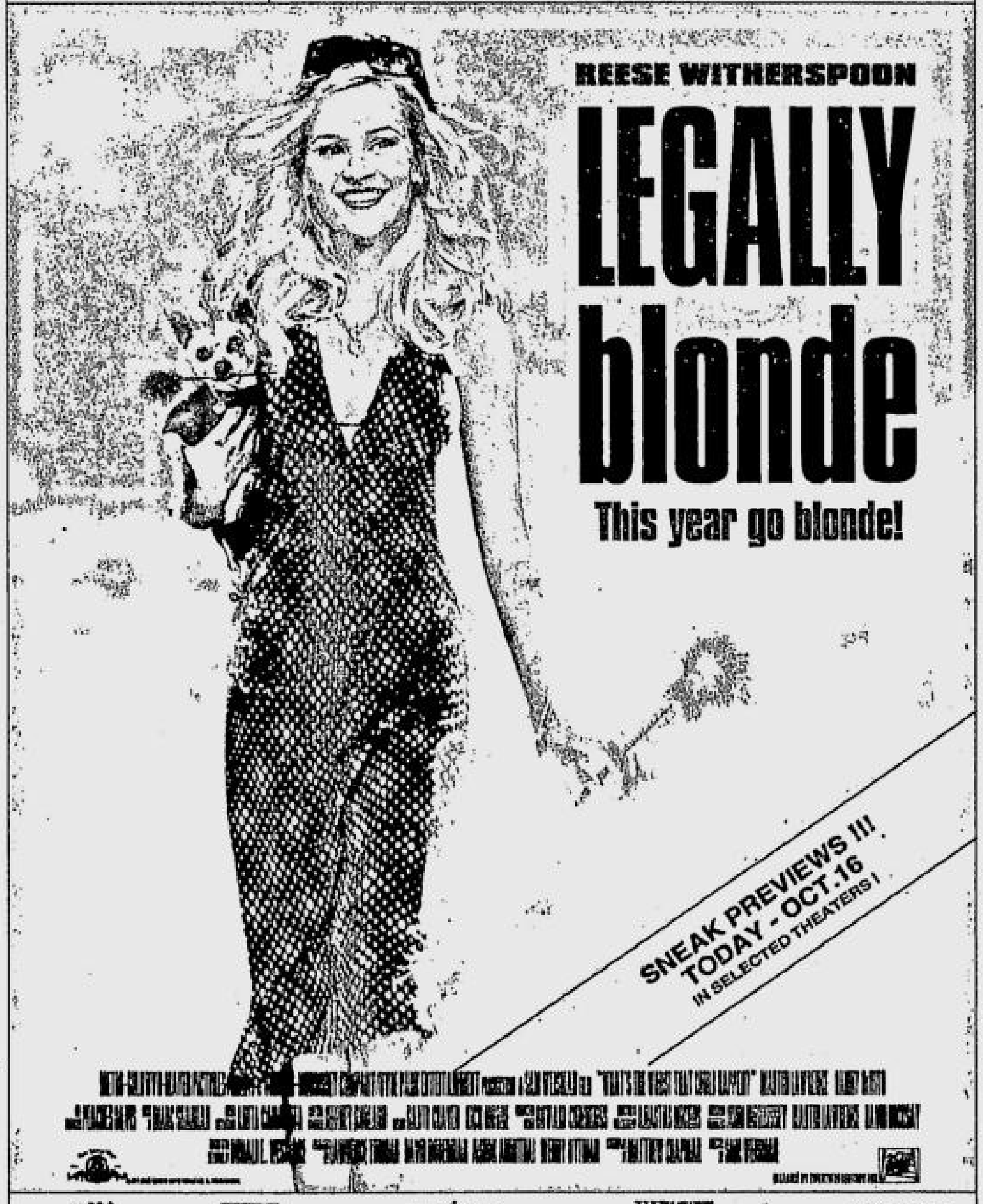
HECTOR ECHAVARRIA
PLAYBOY CENTERFOLD PLAYMATE 2000
NIKKI "DANIELLE" LEMKE
EXTREME FORCE

La Nacion (Argentina):
"Echavarria in a great demonstration of Martial Arts with lightning hands and feet destroyed the American Champion, who was not able to get up for the fifth round."
Islander News (USA):
"Echavarria, who is the United States National Tae-Kwon Do Champion, is going to the Olympics, and he promised to be better than ever."
Black Belt Magazine (USA):
"Meet Hector Echavarria, the next Martial Arts movie star of the 21st Century."
MEET HIM ON OCT. 17

OPENS OCTOBER 24!
MTRCB RATING PG – 13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult



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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

New cop drama on Studio 23

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

STUDIO 23 is coming on strong this season with two new series and new episodes for three of its existing shows.

Most promising of all is the new cop drama, "The District," currently airing on Studio 23 at 9 p.m. every Wednesday. The drama is inspired by the real-life experiences of former New York Deputy Police Commissioner **Jack Maple**.

In the series' fictive retelling, Maple is now **Jack Mannion**, a champion of the underdog and a crime fighter whose revolutionary tactics result in a 50-percent drop in crime, first in Boston, then in Newark, New Jersey.

When Washington DC's mayor, **Ethan Baker**, is looking for a new police chief to clean up his crime-riddled city, he hires Mannion. Unfortunately, the new chief of police is greeted with hostility by the top brass at police headquarters.

Despite the unfriendly reception he gets, Mannion sets about building a team to implement the rebirth of the Metro force—**Ella Farmer**, a hardworking statistics clerk; **Temple Page**, a former Marine; **Danny MCGregor**, a cop from Belfast; and **Nancy Parras**, an intuitive investigator.

Together, they form a modern-day Untouchables team, determined to make the district safe for its citizens.

In the show's stellar cast are **Craig T. Nelson** (Jack Mannion), **Jayne Brook** (Mary Ann Mitchell), **Lynne Thigpen** (Ella Farmer), **Roger Aaron Brown** (Joe Noland), **Sean Patrick Thomas** (Temple Page), **Justin Theroux** (**Nick Pierce**), **David O'Hara** (Danny McGregor), **Elizabeth Marvel** (Nancy Parras) and **John Amos** (Mayor Ethan Baker).

The other new show, "Temptation Island," is telecast every Sunday at 9:30 p.m. It is a reality series in which four couples who are considering marriage travel to the Caribbean paradise of Belize to test the strength of their relationships.

On the island, the couples are separated from their partners and introduced to eligible singles—that's when the temptation begins. In the course of their stay, they each get the opportunity to prove to themselves and to each other that they have chosen the right lifetime partner.

The existing shows with new season episodes are "Just Shoot Me" (9:30 p.m., Tuesdays), "Veronica's Closet" (8:30 p.m., Sundays) and "Will & Grace" (9 p.m., Sundays).

On the National Geographic Channel

TONIGHT at 10 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel, "Lost at Sea—The Search for Longitude." The documentary traces a history of problem-solving as ancient mariners struggled to determine their location on the vast oceans of the world.

The conundrum was finally pieced together largely through the efforts of an unschooled, isolated but obsessed clockmaker from a small town in England.

On Oct. 24 and 31 at 11:30 p.m., join **Craig Charles** as he hosts lively discussions in the Amazing Space pub and fields questions on a variety of offbeat subjects.

Alien worlds with two suns, exotic sports that astronauts will play on planets vastly different from our own, and the top 10 things to do on a long, boring trip to Mars—these are just some of the wildly fascinating topics that will be discussed by Charles and a panel of scientists, astronauts and astronomers.

Feedback

FROM **Grace T. Abejo** of Cebu City: "I'm very happy that **Aiza Seguerra** has made a successful comeback, thanks to her hit album, 'Pagdating ng Panahon.' This only goes to show that, if a star still has something good to give, his or her fans will never forget her, and new fans will even be added to the star's following.

"What Aiza should do next is to star again in a movie, preferably a musical where she can sing her theme song and other tunes . . ."

New directors help try to bring industry back to life

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

THE 20-year-old Viva Productions' new crop of film directors, **Joyce Bernal, Eric Mati, Yam Laranas, Dwight Gaston** and **Al Tantay**, have so far yielded critical and commercial hits for the film outfit. In their own way, they have helped the dwindling local film industry try to recover from the slump. They have a long way to go before they can even begin to equal the achievements of the late film greats **Lino Brocka** and **Ishmael Bernal** and contemporaries **Maryo de los Reyes** and **Mel Chionglo**, but they are undoubtedly on the right track.

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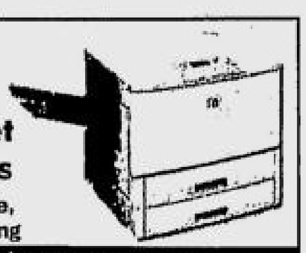

91-day T-bill rate hits 8-month high

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE YIELDS of government securities yesterday shot up for the third straight week, reflecting the uncertainty of the financial market which pushed the rate for the benchmark 91-day treasury bills up by 17.6 basis points to 9.803 percent, its highest level since February.

Similarly, the rate for the six-month treasuries rose by 12.5 points to 12.054 percent, approximating the end-April level. The government rejected all bids for the one-year debt notes whose rate would have risen by 63.5 points to 13.392 percent.

The government was able to raise only P1.5 billion from yesterday's auction when it gave a full P1-billion award of the 91-day treasuries and only half or P500 million of the 182-day notes.

"The government would not be held captive by an unfriendly market that is trying to test whether we would accept unreasonable rates. This is a market hallucination," National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said.

Edeza said he had expected that the auction results would be ugly based on discussions with market practitioners.

He said he expected treasury bill rates to stay at current levels in the coming week and the government, which was trying to build up its cash reserves, would rely on alternative sources of foreign and local financing.

The options include the auction today of P30 billion to P50 billion worth of 10-year zero coupon bonds that would give the government between P8 billion and P10 billion in fresh cash.

Also in the pipeline late this month or early November, is the auction of at least P5 billion worth of retail treasury bonds that will mature in three-and-a-half years as well as a $100-million, one-year dollar treasuries that may also be offered to retail investors.

Edeza stressed that the government had enough cash to reject the market's unreasonable bids in the future. He said the fixed-income traders have been trying to raise the specter of a swollen budget deficit to justify an increase in interest rates.

"We have enough cash to support the deficit and we are confident that it would not go beyond the P145-billion target. The market is being unfair to the government by raising this issue again and again only to justify their high bids," Edeza said.

Traders said that while the government had constantly assured that it would meet the deficit target, the signals it had been giving point otherwise.

"The borrowing binge is scary and if this is not a signal that the deficit is going to be higher, I don't

91-DAY/ B4

SPECIAL REPORT

Poblador strikes back: Who are my critics?

Page B4

INDICATORS

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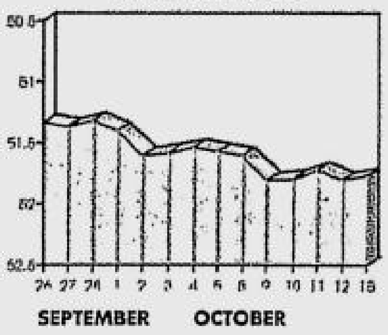


GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

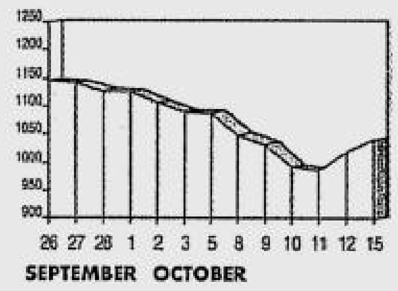
P 51.77 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Oct. 15, 2001

¥ 120.98 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Oct. 15, 2001

GOLD:$284.20/284.70
per ounce Hong Kong,
Oct. 15, 2001

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares rise 2.3%

SHARE prices rose 2.3 percent yesterday on follow-through buying of blue chips after the key index dove to 10-year lows last week, brokers said.

"It remains to be seen whether this rally can be sustained because the outlook is still bearish in the near term with the economic slowdown in view of the global anti-terrorist campaign," said Jacob Nocom of Asiasec Equities Inc.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index gained 22.93 points to close at 1,040.80.

Turnover was 181 million shares worth P390 million compared with 375 million shares worth P582 million traded on Friday.

"Overall, the market's rally is not really that impressive yet," said Fitzgerald Aclan of KGI Securities, saying foreigners have been taking advantage of the market's run-up to unload some issues.

The most active issue was San Miguel Co. "B," which closed unchanged at P45.50.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. rose P25 to 375 while SM Prime Holdings Inc. gained 20 centavos to P5.30. *AFP*

Republic Glass allots ₱750M for new ventures

AFTER divesting from its core glass business, Republic Glass Holdings Corp. has earmarked P750 million out of its fresh cash hoard to scout for new ventures.

Republic Glass told the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday that the company's board had agreed to set aside funds out of its retained earnings for future acquisitions.

Earlier, Republic Glass, which is owned by Marcos energy czar Geronimo Velasco, sold for P1.19 billion its majority interest in Republic Asahi Glass Corp.—the country's dominant glassmaker—and Republic Asahi Realty Corp. to its foreign partner, Tokyo-based Asahi Glass Co. Ltd.

Without these businesses, Republic Glass is now left with only low-key assets in its books, namely property leasing unit RGC Investment Corp. and barge operator RGC Marine Transport Corp.

Republic Glass had been approached by some groups for possible investment in the information technology sector but officials said the company was not too keen on this investment.

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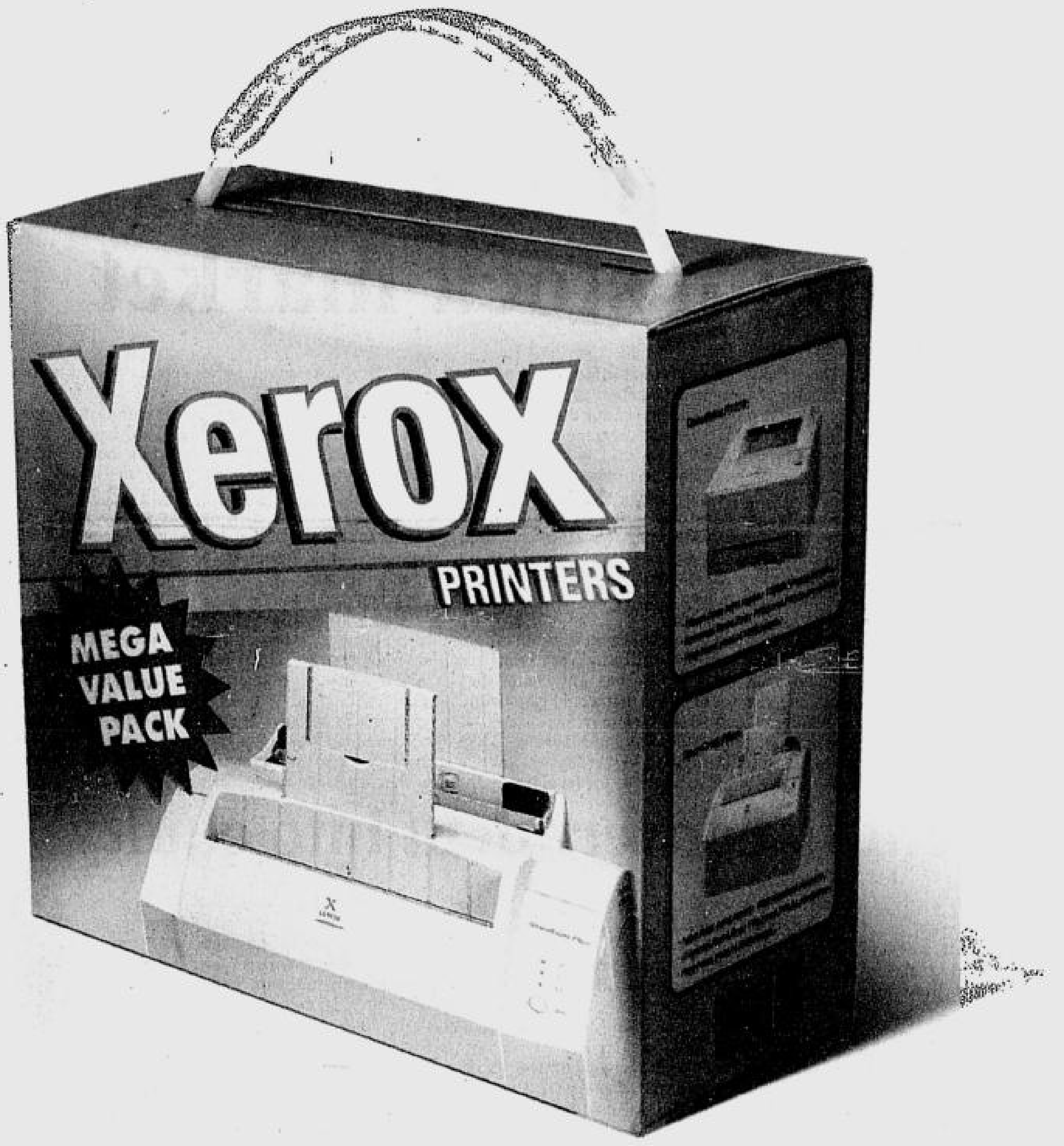

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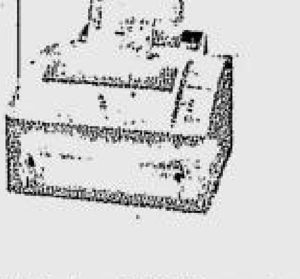

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Something up his slaves

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

NOT a single one of the "cronies" is facing charges of plunder. Apparently this cute administration reserves the charges exclusively for the man named Band . . . Wrist Band.

In business, however, they think that something must be wrong. Nobody can plunder a country all by his lonesome self. Go ahead and ask Atila!

So nobody knows when payback time will come for the others. Maybe Justice Secretary Hernando Perez is just biding time, and he has something up his sleeves.

But then again, much earlier in this cute administration, asked by newsmen when he would file charges against the "cronies," Perez gave us a hint to his talent as a lawyer.

In a tone, which did not hide his irritation, Perez said then that he would charge anybody, if we could provide him the evidence. And that was the justice secretary!

People thought it was his job, precisely, to build the case. Crazy people! His job is simply to wait for evidence to come to him. It's a hard job, but somebody has got to do it.

* * *

STILL, some slaves in the government have come up with something. The biggest of the "cronies," it seems, is Jaime Dichavez, who has gone into hiding.

Dichavez is said to have opened the "Jose Velarde" account with Equitable-PCI Bank. If you ask people in the bank, they will tell you Dichavez was Jose Velarde.

Thus, to many in business, if Perez really wants to investigate the "cronies," that account should be a good start to establish a paper trail. If he really wants to!

A deposit in the account, for instance, was made with cashier's checks amounting to some P60 million. Now how hard is it to trace the identity of the buyer of those checks?

If Perez really wants to, he can probably work on a court order. If he really wants to, he can then look into the records of the Westmont Bank branch on Ayala Avenue.

Somebody told me that's where another famous "crony" bought the checks. He is said to be close to Dichavez, although he looks like Manny Tan, aka Manuel Tankiansee.

* * *

JUST a few weeks old in his position, Perez told me over sumptuous lunch at the Manila Hotel that he already got an invitation from the same Manny Tan look-alike.

Through an "intermediary," the look-alike was supposedly dying to have lunch with Perez. The good secretary told me that he politely turned down the invitation.

Well, during the time of Wrist Band, the Manny Tan look-alike was rumored to be part of the "midnight Cabinet," which met in a log cabin in Tagaytay Highlands.

Who is this Manny Tan look-alike, anyway, and why did he want to have lunch with Perez? Okay, Perez is good-looking and, being intelligent, is fun to talk to.

He is not my type, nevertheless, and I don't really know whose type he is, but I'm sure he was also not the type of Manny Tan's look-alike. There must be something else.

You see, various internal reports in the Department of Finance already traced the activities of business groups, which were quite active at the piers. Very, very active!

* * *

ANYWAY, at that time, the finance secretary was Edgardo Espiritu, who later testified against Wrist Band regarding "cronies" who were suspected of being bigtime smugglers.

I remember now that the real Manny Tan, and most probably not the look-alike, was a partner of Espiritu in Westmont Bank, which is now the United Overseas Bank.

The Espiritu group bought out the Ty family, who also produced Ajinomoto products, from Associated Bank, and renamed it Westmont Bank.

In the same group was the real Manny Tan, whose holdings were under the name of Farmix Fertilizer, Pearlbank Securities, and his wife, the real Juanita Tan.

Shortly after Espiritu became finance secretary, it seems that he and Manny Tan had a falling out. So who was closer to Wrist Band? Hint—Espiritu had to leave!

Now the real Manny Tan also owned 25 percent of the troubled Wincorp. Up to this day, however, he denies he ever borrowed from the public through Wincorp.

* * *

BUT that's not the hard work for Perez. The real hard work for Perez comes in gathering proof on the bad things going on at the piers. Maybe he can start at the Batangas port and Poro Point.

A certain company, and I think it is known as BH, maintains warehouses in both of those ports. Oh, the warehouses only keep staples like rice and corn.

Maybe you still remember the shipment of rice and corn, which were intercepted off the Batangas port last year. You do? *Wala lang.* It may or may not be relevant here.

You see, my info then was that the rice shipment lacked the necessary papers. All of a sudden it was documented properly by the National Food Authority. Like magic!

Reports insist that rice is still being smuggled into the country. Well, rice from Thailand costs only half of the retail price in Metro Manila. Smuggling is profitable.

Talk in Binondo thus has it, smuggled rice is disposed of through the so-called "Magnificent 7," otherwise known as the Binondo rice cartel. Perez has work to do.

* * *

BUT back to the real Manny Tan, his company Farmix Fertilizer, which used to be a stockholder of Westmont Bank, is the biggest fertilizer distributor today.

It took over the outlets of the defunct Planters Products, which closed down due to a lot of unpaid foreign debt, for which our government sold us down the river.

Anyway, Farmix Fertilizer, according to the Department of Agriculture, controls roughly 60 percent of fertilizer distribution. Without any factory, mind you.

The company simply buys most of the fertilizer produced by the local Philphos, which is partly owned by the government. Question: How is Farmix related to Philphos?

I don't know, and I only know that during the time of Wrist Band, somebody also controlled all of the importation of Philphos. Bank records should show it easily.

But of course those records must, on their own, walk all the way from the banks to the building, then to the office, and finally right to the desk of this public servant called Perez.

Gov't rules out use of GSIS, SSS to prop up stock market

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance yesterday said the government has not drawn up—and is not likely to do so—specific measures to enliven the local stock market whose main index had dropped by 19.6 percent since Sept. 11.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho has also ruled out the participation of government pension funds—the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System—to help prop up the local stock market by increasing their investments in listed companies.

"The SSS and the GSIS are two of the biggest sources of long-term funds in the local stock market. But for them to do anything different to prop up the market is not an option," the finance chief told reporters.

Camacho has yet to meet with the officers of the Philippine Stock Exchange, which created a task force last week to seek ways to boost local stock trading.

The finance chief said that aside from boosting confidence of foreign and local investors by sustaining economic growth and preventing the budget deficit from increasing, there was nothing much the administration could do.

"We cannot go against the market and its not only us, all stock markets are going through a period of uncertainty. We could partly address that by building up confidence in the economy," Camacho said.

In previous administrations, including the short-lived Estrada regime, the pension funds helped jumpstart the local bourse by buying blue chips and some second-line issues.

The pension funds earmarked billions of pesos of their investible funds into stock investments. Camacho said both institutions know that they should only engage in stocks that would give them a reasonable return over the long term.

While the main Philippine index rose by 22.93 points or by 2.25 percent yesterday to close at 1040.8, it has failed to return to the level before the Sept. 11 attacks on the power centers of the United States.

Slipping to its 10-year low, the composite index fell below the psychological 1,000 point last Wednesday and share prices have lost almost a fourth of their value since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

PSE chair Felipe Yap said the exchange would try to seek Camacho's help in propping up the local bourse and that incentives and tax reduction were among the issues that the PSE might raise with the government.

Camacho said that the government would try to help prop up the local stock market by creating an environment that should encourage capital information. But he said forcing new companies to list is not a part of the plan.

Camacho said the Department of Finance has also been lobbying with Congress to remove the documentary stamp tax on secondary trading, seen as one of the disincentives to stock investors.

Alsons Cement to convert debt into equity

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

ALSONS Cement Corp. is raising its capital base to P5.3 billion from P2 billion to convert into equity its advances from foreign strategic shareholder Holderbank group of Switzerland.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Alsons Cement corporate secretary Allen Morallos-Arbis said the company was planning to issue additional shares in favor of Cemco Holdings Inc., thus requiring the P3.3-billion increase in its authorized capital.

Cemco, a 60-40 percent joint venture between Clinco Corp. and Holderbank, is currently Alsons Cement's single biggest stockholder with a 49-percent stake. On top of its interest in Cemco, Holderbank has another 17 percent in direct equity in Alsons Cement.

Clinco is a private company majority owned by Alsons' Filipino investors, led by the Alcantara family which also has interests in power, property, gas distribution and plywood businesses.

In an interview, Alsons Cement treasury and investor relations officer Jonathan Patrick Lara said the issuance of new shares would not result in any significant change in the company's ownership structure.

Lara explained that the issuance of new shares would accommodate the conversion of the company's debt into equity. Specifically, he said the company had some $60 million in obligations to Holderbank which could be wiped out in exchange for shares.

The debt-for-equity conversion is expected to strengthen the company's balance sheet in view of the difficult economic environment.

The Alcantara family brought in Holderbank as a strategic partner in 1999 to beef up Alsons Cement's capital at a time that it was seeking to restructure P8 billion in debts with creditor-banks. The company was then reeling from the global recession that led to weak demand for cement as well as the sharp peso-dollar depreciation, which jacked up the cost of servicing its foreign debts.

The Holderbank cement group, which recently changed its corporate name to Holcim Ltd. from Holderbank Financière Glaris Ltd., is one of the world's largest suppliers of cement, aggregates (gravel and sand) and concrete. From its origins in Switzerland, Holcim has grown into a global player with majority and minority interests in more than 70 countries on all continents.

In 2000, Holcim recorded sales of 14 billion Swiss francs and employed more than 44,000 people.

DISCLOSURES

CENTRAL Azucarera Don Pedro purchased 100,000 of its shares at P0.76 per share and another 50,000 shares at P0.77 per share.

* * *

REPUBLIC Glass Holdings Corp. announced the election of Corazon Santos-dela Paz to succeed Renato Ermita as director of the company. The company has also declared a P0.15-per-share cash dividend in favor of stockholders of record as of Oct. 30 and shall be payable on Nov. 22.

* * *

ALSONS Cement Corp. will increase its authorized capital stock from P2 billion to P5.315 billion. The company announced that Trevor Lau would be vice president of finance, while Roberto Lising would be vice president of human resources and administration. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

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2. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	1,900,000	
3. BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	725,000	700,000
4. CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	100,000	
5. CAMP JOHN HAY	350,000	
6. CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	800,000	
7. CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	125,000	
8. CELEBRITY CLUB	210,000	
9. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	380,000	
10. CLUB FILIPINO	250,000	
11. EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	220,000	
12. EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	375,000	340,000
13. EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	140,000	100,000
14. FAIRWAYS & BLUEWATER	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
15. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	230,000	
16. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	280,000	
17. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	500,000	400,000
18. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	300,000	
19. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	400,000	
20. MANILA GOLF CLUB (CORP.)	16,000,000	
21. MANILA POLO CLUB	3,300,000	
22. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	750,000	700,000
23. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	900,000	800,000
24. MANILA YACHT CLUB	650,000	
25. METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"	150,000	
26. METROPOLITAN CLUB "B"	170,000	
27. MT MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND.)	375,000	
28. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	250,000	
29. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	400,000	
30. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	550,000	
31. PUERTO AZUL BEACH CLUB	150,000	140,000
32. QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	230,000	200,000
33. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	220,000	
34. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	350,000	
35. ROYAL NORTHWOODS	Pls. Call	
36. STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	1,800,000	1,600,000
37. SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND)	300,000	
38. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L GOLF CLUB	600,000	
39. TAGAYTAY MIDLAND	750,000	
40. VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	195,000	175,000
41. VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	250,000	
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COUNTRY SHARES
As of October 16, 2001

	BUYING	SELLING
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A/B*	-	1.5 M/1.8 M*
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	725,000	750,000
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB A/B*	-	100,000/105,000*
CAMP JOHN HAY	-	300,000
CANLUBANG	-	800,000
CAPITOL HILLS	115,000	130,000
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	-	205,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	350,000/620,000**	375,000/450,000*/700,000**
EVERCREST A/B*	-	100,000/150,000*
FONTANA D/C*/B**	120,000*	90,000/150,000*/280,000**
FOREST HILLS A/B*/C**	230,000	240,000/350,000*/450,000**
LUISITA GOLF CLUB	500,000	Pls. call or swap
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	-	300,000/400,000*
MANILA GOLF CLUB CORP.	-	14 M
MANILA POLO CLUB	2,575,000	2,700,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	-	700,000/850,000*
METROPOLITAN A/B*	-	160,000/170,000*
MIMOSA IND./CORP.*	-	240,000/375,000*
MT. MALARAYAT A/C* (w/lot)**	-	350,000/650,000*/2.0 M**
ORCHARD A/B*/C**	600,000**	240,000/425,000*
PUERTO AZUL A/B*	150,000	170,000/Pls. call*
RIVIERA A/B*	-	230,000/400,000*
ROCKWELL CLUB	500,000	550,000
ROYALE TAGAYTAY A/B*/C**	100,000	120,000/150,000*/100,000**
SHERWOOD HILLS A/B*/C**	-	250,000/350,000*/450,000**
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB A	1,700,000	1,825,000
SUBIC BAY IND/CORP.*	400,000*	300,000/450,000*
TAT FILIPINAS GOLF A/B*	-	350,000/550,000*
TAGAYTAY H-LANDS CC/GOLF*	850,000*	375,000/800,000*
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	-	750,000
VALLE VERDE IND.	170,000	185,000
WACK WACK	-	7 M

Available Lessors for Playing Rights: Alabang, Calatagan, Camp John Hay, Canlubang, Canyon Woods, Celebrity, Eagleridge, Eastridge, Forest Hills, Makati Sports, Malarayat, Orchard, Riviera, Sta. Elena, Southwoods, Tagaytay H-lands & Midlands, Valley Golf, Wack Wack, Rockwell & Others
Selling: Villas, Belleview, Pinecrest & Woodlands in Tagaytay Highlands
Lots: Eagleridge, Forest Hills, Punta Fuego, Royale Tagaytay & Southwoods
Buying: Orchard Lot Phase 7
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CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club "A"	1,460,000	-
Camp John Hay	350,000	270,000
Capitol Hills Golf & CC	130,000	120,000
Canyon Woods	350,000	-
Canlubang	700,000	-
Celebrity Sports	200,000	-
Eagleridge "A"	350,000	-
Eastridge	220,000	-
Fontana "D"	90,000	Pls. Call
Manila Polo	2,600,000	-
Manila Golf "C"	17,000,000	-
Manila Southwoods "A"	-	650,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	750,000	-
Orchard	230,000	100,000
Phil. Columbian	90,000	60,000
Puerto Azul	170,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club	220,000	-
Riviera Golf	220,000	-
Rockwell	500,000	-
Royale Tagaytay	100,000	80,000
Sherwoods	120,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	360,000	-
Tagaytay Highlands Golf & CC	650,000	-
Tagaytay Midlands	750,000	-
Valle Verde (Indv.)	300,000	155,000
Valley Golf	240,000	-
Wack-Wack Golf	7,000,000	-

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Unit 1402 Medical Plaza Ortigas, San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Monday, October 15, 2001)

Stocks	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume
Banks & Financial Services					
Banks					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	45	46.5	45	46	362,000
Equitable Pci Bank Inc.	17.75	18.25	17.75	18.25	331,100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	179	180	178	180	36,290
Prudential Bank	450	450	450	450	10
Philippine National Bank	48	49	48	49	145,600
Security Bank Corp.	18.25	18.75	18.25	18.75	6,700
Union Bank of the Phil.	15.5	16	15.5	16	2,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	130,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	100,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1300	1300	1290	1290	7,180
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1070	1070	1060	1070	10,910
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	26	26	25	25	4,200
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	2,790,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	595	595	595	595	80
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.023	600,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	30,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	352.5	375	352.5	375	154,660
Ivantage Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	640,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.018	0.018	0.017	0.018	6,300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	22	22.25	22	22	142,000
Manila Electric Co. B	32.5	33.5	32.5	33.5	1,102,000
Petron Corp.	1.18	1.22	1.18	1.2	9,572,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.36	1.42	1.34	1.36	771,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.37	0.39	0.37	0.39	200,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Cement Corp.	1	1	1	1	50,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	13,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.06	2.06	2.06	2.06	10,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	31,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11	11	10.75	10.75	200,700
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	24.75	24.75	24.75	24.75	5,000
RFM Corp.	2	2	2	2	208,000
San Miguel Corp. A	38.5	39	38	39	142,800
San Miguel Corp. B	45	45.5	45	45.5	1,405,600
Vitarich Corp.	0.35	0.38	0.35	0.35	400,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	10,000
Ayala Corp.	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.4	3,005,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	20,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	2,722,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	30,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	36,000,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	20,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.89	0.9	0.88	0.89	2,210,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.15	0.15	3,400,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	150,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	23	23.5	23	23.25	216,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.125	0.14	0.12	0.14	70,000
Ionics Inc.	6	6.5	6	6.5	94,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.28	1.3	1.28	1.3	502,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	60,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.6	0.61	0.57	0.6	470,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.2	0.225	0.2	0.22	2,800,000
Music Corp.	0.42	0.45	0.42	0.45	760,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.115	0.11	0.115	210,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	50,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	9,090,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	400,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	20,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	40,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	250,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	25	25.5	25	25	589,800
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	520	520	520	520	1,000
Jollibee Warrants	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	210,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	1,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series U	10	10	10	10	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	2,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10	10	10	10	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	500
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	4,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	3.95	4.1	3.95	4.05	8,026,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	400,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.22	0.24	0.22	0.24	440,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.21	0.215	0.21	0.215	1,140,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.18	1.26	1.18	1.24	23,738,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.1	5.4	5.1	5.3	6,379,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	10,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.023	0.025	0.023	0.024	25,200,000
Omico Corp.	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	4,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	1,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	30,000
Oil					
Imperial Res.	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.016	12,300,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	4,000,000

	Shares	Value (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,131,790	57,384,160.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	93,228,240	236,702,565.00
Pro	40,223,000	95,995,470.00
Mining	30,240,000	630,500.00
Oil	16,300,000	197,500.00
Grand Totals:	181,123,030	390,910,195.00

	Averages	
Banks & Fin Svc	419.89	Up 11.97
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,482.76	Up 24.28
Pro	417.40	Up 14.54
Mining	1,013.63	Up 3.43
Oil	1.48	Unch 0.00
All Shares Index	660.91	Down 1.60
Composite	1,040.80	Up 22.93

No. Of Advances: 39; No. Of Declines: 16; No. Of Unchanged: 27; No. Of Traded Issues: 82; No. Of Trades: 2,067

CURRENCIES

Oct. 15, 2001 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.097454	1.000000	51.7700
Japan	Yen	0.009056	0.008252	0.4272
United Kingdom	Pound	1.593942	1.452400	75.1907
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.140880	0.128370	6.6457
Switzerland	Franc	0.674817	0.614893	31.8330
Canada	Dollar	0.702371	0.640000	33.1328
Singapore	Dollar	0.604058	0.550418	28.4951
Australia	Dollar	0.550654	0.501756	25.9759
Bahrain	Dinar	2.911173	2.652661	137.3283
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.292655	0.266667	13.8054
Brunei	Dollar	0.602170	0.548697	28.4060
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000110	0.000100	0.0052
Thailand	Baht	0.024551	0.022371	1.1581
UAE	Dirham	0.298871	0.272331	14.0986
Korea	Won	0.000852	0.000776	0.0402
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.911200	47.1728
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.465889	24.1191
France	Franc	0.152450	0.138912	7.1915
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453781	0.413485	21.4061
Austria	Schilling	0.072672	0.066219	3.4282
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022588	1.1694
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000471	0.0244
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.153253	7.9339
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004545	0.2353
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005476	0.2835
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022588	1.1694
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.156985	59.8971

Gov't says ₱50-to-$1 target no longer realistic

By Clarissa S. Batino

FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho yesterday admitted that the government's P50-to-$1 target was no longer as realistic as when the projection was made in August.

"It's going to be more difficult now because there would be less foreign exchange inflow given the expectations that export earnings would contract by 15 percent this year," the finance chief explained.

Camacho was assigned by President Macapagal-Arroyo last July to help draw up measures that would prevent the peso from falling further after it dipped to 54.335 to a dollar on July 17, its lowest level under the present administration.

The finance chief had worked with Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura to launch measures that would defend the local currency, including the fast-tracking of foreign borrowings to boost the central bank's dollar reserves, which are used to intervene in the spot market.

The central bank had also tightened its policies, raised the banks' reserve requirement, cut by half the dollar transactions allowed over the counter, and released the identities of nine banks found to have speculated against the peso.

While the measures effectively quelled the so-called one-way bet that the peso would drop to 55 to 60 to a greenback by year's end, the issue now has shifted to a decline in dollar supply.

After the Sept. 11 attacks on the US power centers, Swiss-based UBS Warburg had projected that the peso would fall to 55 to a greenback by year's end.

Dollar earnings from exporters and overseas contract workers are being counted on to push the peso to the 50:$1 level. But export earnings have contracted by about 10 percent in the first seven months and are seen to drop to as much as 30 percent in the last quarter.

"Admittedly, market fundamentals have changed although we still expect OFW remittance to pour in starting November," the finance chief said.

The inter-agency Development Budget Coordination Council has already revised the foreign exchange outlook this year by at least P1 lower to a range of P51 to P52 from an earlier assumption of P50 to P51 to a greenback.

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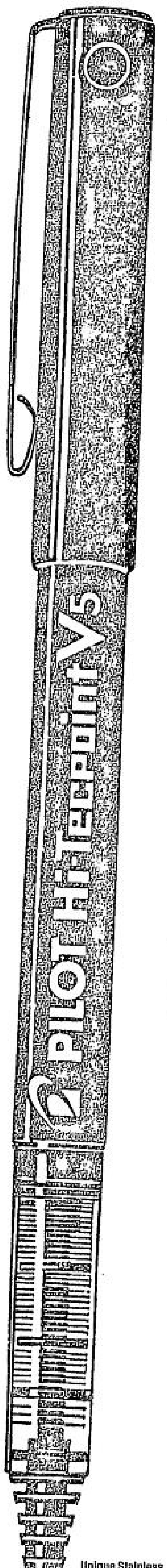

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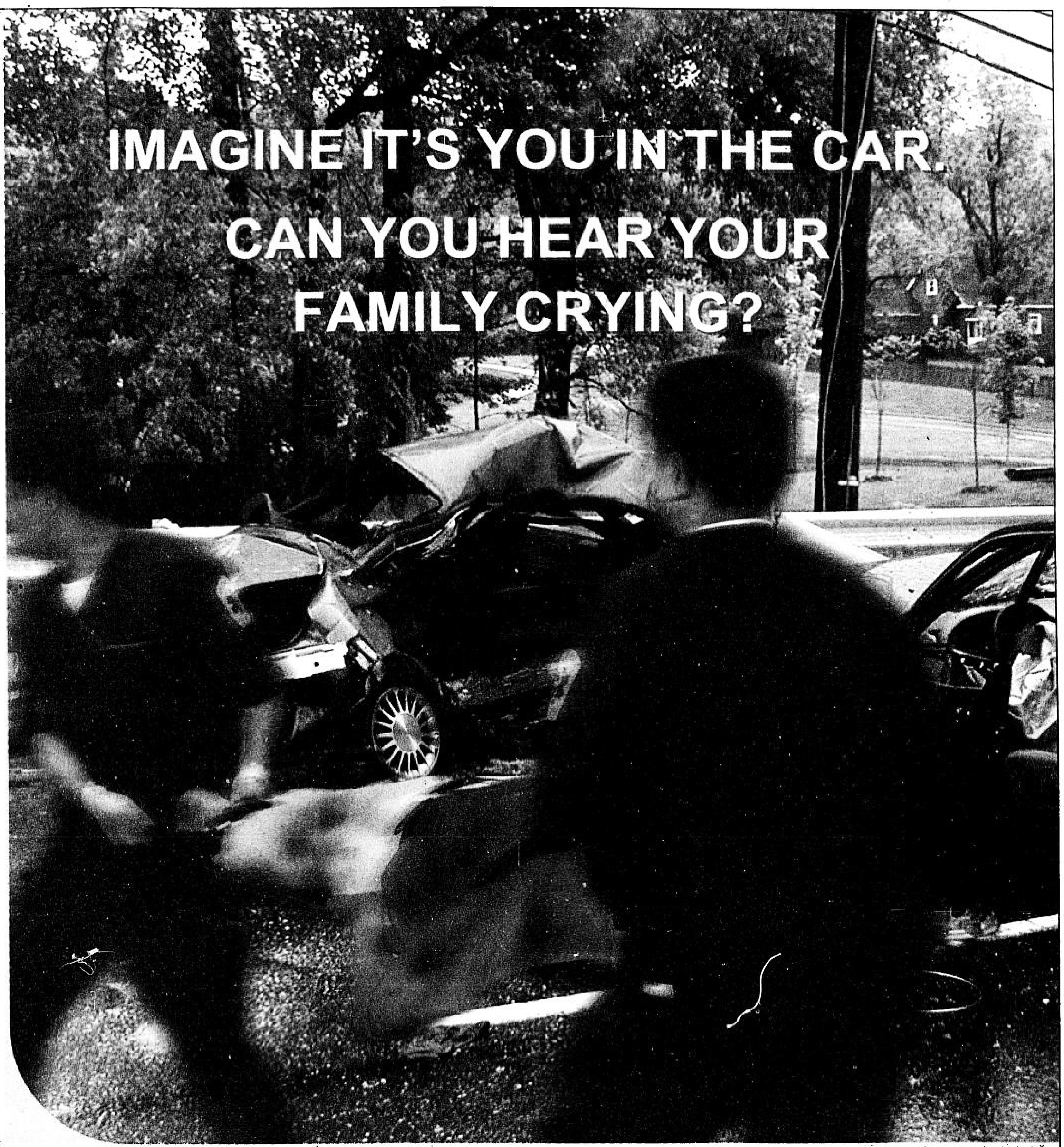
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STORY OF PHILCOMSAT

Poblador strikes back: Who are my critics?

By Jerry Esplanada

(Second of three parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

ON March 30, 1999, the value of some P236.05 million in stock market investments of the Philippine Overseas Telecommunications Corp. plunged to P24.9 million.

This was due to "massive exposure in speculative stocks like Oriental Petroleum (and Mining Corp.) and Philodrill Corp.," according to a top official of the Philippine Communications Satellite Corp.

Philcomsat is a subsidiary of POTC, where the government has a 40-percent interest.

For Oriental Petroleum "A" shares alone, POTC and Philcomsat lost a total of P142,293,689.90, while for Philodrill "A" the company lost P49,950,124.46.

Philodrill "B" was another loser. Its value went down by P17,907,740.27, said the same Philcomsat source, who also noted that the Philcomsat management under Honorio Poblador III did not invest in blue chips Manila Electric Co. and the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

In a May 28, 2001 memorandum to Malacañang, Manuel Nieto, then POTC and Philcomsat president, reported that apart from making questionable real estate purchases, Poblador also "used company funds to purchase securities clearly in excess of the authority given to him by the Board of Directors of Philcomsat."

During a Feb. 22, 1991 meeting of the Philcomsat board of directors, the body "resolved to invest in amounts not to exceed P15 million, 50 percent of which was to be invested in shares of commercial and industrial companies while the other 50 percent was to be invested in shares in mining and oil companies."

In all negotiations and transactions, "any two of the following were authorized in behalf of Philcomsat: Poblador, president; Alfredo Africa, senior vice president; and Jose Africa, executive vice president."

Between January 1992 and December 1997 alone, POTC purchased a total of P409,425,789.70 in securities, according to documents furnished to the INQUIRER by company insiders.

In 1992, purchases of marketable securities totaled P234.1 million, while purchases in the next five years amounted to P136.3 million, P4.35 million, P22.2 million, P1.58 million, and P10.7 million.

A friend of Mike Arroyo ...

Malacañang has yet to act on the Nieto disclosures.

"With (Jose Miguel) Mike Arroyo at the Palace, it is very unlikely the reported irregularities (allegedly) involving Mr. Poblador will be looked into," said Poblador critics at Philcomsat and POTC.

Arroyo, husband of President Macapagal-Arroyo, happens to be a close friend of Poblador. This paper tried but failed to reach him for comment.

Poblador confirmed he and the First Gentleman had been buddies since grade school days at the Ateneo de Manila.

"But I have nothing to do with government. I have never gotten any favors from the government or from Gloria (Macapagal) ever since she went into public office. Our relationship is strictly personal. I never asked for any favor and was never given anything from government. In fact, I've been very meticulous about that, not even to approach them for anything," Poblador said.

He added: "I've never asked them for anything. That's a fact. So what if we are friends. Did I take advantage of it?"

NIETO

... and Jaime Dichaves ...

Apart from Mike Arroyo, Poblador is also being linked to Jaime Dichaves, charged last month by the Ombudsman with plunder for allegedly conspiring with jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada in pressuring the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System to buy P1.8-billion worth of shares of Belle Resources Corp. in 1999.

The ethnic Chinese businessman said to be a close friend of Estrada had "abetted, conspired with and prevailed upon" the deposed President to force the SSS and GSIS to invest in the deal where the former leader allegedly earned P189.7 million as his profit-commission.

At Philcomsat, at least three of the 12 top executives of the firm are known recommendees of Dichaves. They are Carmelo Africa Jr., who sits as chair, president and director; Pacifico Marcelo III, director; and Amado Santiago Jr., corporate secretary.

... Dichaves' friends

Africa, who is also POTC director, is said to be one of the drinking and gambling buddies of Estrada. He is facing graft charges before the Ombudsman and the Presidential Commission Against Graft and Corruption for allegedly using his authority as a member of the Philcomsat board to use the premises and facilities of Philcomsat's vehicle maintenance center in Mandaluyong City for the exclusive use of Dynamic Planner and Construction Corp., his privately owned construction firm.

The deal involved a five-year lease contract with Dynamic for the use and occupancy of a two-story building inside a compound owned by Philcomsat. While Dynamic is claiming it was only leasing the building inside the Traffic Management compound, Philcomsat said the company had practically taken over the entire compound without compensating the telecommunications firm.

Marcelo, a former adviser to ex-transportation and communications secretary Vicente Rivera, is alleged to be another Dichaves nominee to the Philcomsat board.

Reports said Marcelo, who once worked as project manager of the Bicol River Basin Development Program's Agribusiness Development Project, pulled a lot of strings during the Estrada administration.

Streak of decency

When interviewed, Poblador took up the cudgels for Africa, whom he described as an "Erap appointee with a streak of decency."

"And that's the guy they're hitting now. So why is he sitting here? Not because he is an Erap boy but because when this new board came in, I told them, look the stockholders are busy hitting each other and it's not good for the company. Let's get somebody who is not a stockholder so that he can be objective. One who is neutral," Poblador told this reporter.

Poblador called Africa a "reluctant president."

Africa, he said, "didn't want to sit. We had to make *pakiusap* to him *para lang umupo*. For the first seven months, he wasn't even receiving anything. He was ashamed to receive money. That's the Erap boy they are hitting."

"They should know the situation first before they talk. What has he done wrong? He's the only one minding the store. Everybody's busy talking to you," Poblador said.

Who are my critics?

At the same time, he asked: "Who are (my critics)? What do they know? Do they know the company, or are they going on assumptions and presumptions and blind prejudice because I am not with them and I am against them?"

"They should get out of the shadows and face me. Unfortunately for me, I don't answer back," Poblador added.

Poblador and Marcelo have known each other for years. But Poblador pointed out he and Dichaves, Marcelo's associate, were never friends.

"To what lengths will they go? I don't mind being accused of being a friend of someone if it were true. But it's not. They accused me of doing deals with Dichaves while I was marching in Ayala (during the Edsa II revolution). *Nahihiya nga ako kay* Dichaves. *Baka sabihin niya, sino itong* Poblador *na'to* claiming to know me? He doesn't know me and I don't know him. I don't even know how he looks like. It's funny because the day a column article came out saying Dichaves and I were friends, I was playing golf in Wack Wack. And this friend of mine was there and when the story came out the next day, he called me to say, "yesterday, *dinaandaanan mo lang kami, eh kausap ko si* Dichaves." It hurts because people who would see me in the street know it's not true I know the guy," Poblador said.

Philcomsat insiders, however, said otherwise. "He is lying through his teeth," one claimed.

Poblador also clarified he was "never an Erap boy."

"I campaigned against him, which is why I was removed hastily when Erap came in. I was against him, not for anything personal but I have daughters, I have children. Erap is not exactly a good example of what a president of the Philippines should be. *(To be concluded)*

AMB. BIENVENIDO K. TANTOCO, SR.
Professorial Chair in Marketing

JRU PROFESSORIAL CHAIR IN MARKETING

Ambassador Bienvenido R. Tantoco Sr. (second from L) turns over his donation for a professorial chair to Armand V. Fabella, chair of the board of trustees of Jose Rizal University, in the presence of their respective sons Vincent K. Fabella (L) and Bienvenido R. Tantoco Jr. (R).

A ceremony was held recently to install the university's full professorial chair in marketing. It has been granted a fund for a marketing and research program that will contribute to the effective professional development in the field, particularly in retail marketing.

Gov't to bid out NSC lease deal on Oct. 23

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry will accept proposals next week for the lease of National Steel Corp.'s Iligan factory, the first step in the government's ongoing efforts to restart the operations of the steel giant.

In a bidding notice, NSC Liquidator Danilo Concepcion said interested parties should submit their sealed offers to lease NSC's Iligan steel plant before 2 p.m. on Oct. 23, 2001 at the office of Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II.

Concepcion said investors who attended the aborted bidding for the lease contract of NSC on Sept.—Voest Alpine and Cathay Pacific Steel Corp.—should resubmit their proposals.

The DTI-led evaluation committee had to postpone its search for an interim investor in NSC last month after Hottick-Renong Bhd.—which controls 80 percent of NSC—balked at its earlier commitment to abide by the committee's move to reopen NSC while the owners and creditor banks settle their difference and agree on a long-term investor.

Hottick-Renong had wanted to pursue its original lease agreement with Allengoal Corp. However, it was ordered to return to the evaluation committee by Malaysia's debt rehabilitation agency Pengurusan Danaharta Nasional Bhd. which has taken over Renong's assets.

Roxas wanted both parties' consent in the operation of the evaluation committee to clear the way for NSC's reopening from any legal suit.

NSC was shut down in November 1999 because Hottick-Renong could not pay its maturing debts that reached P16 billion. Creditor-banks have filed a case with the Securities and Exchange Commission for the liquidation of NSC but the Malaysians vigorously opposed this move. The case is still pending with the SEC.

91-day ...

(From page B1)

know what it is," said a trader from a foreign bank.

The treasurer said the government was expected to be within its budget deficit target in September. The final numbers should be out today. As of August, the budget gap had widened to P99.527 billion against a target of P96.644 billion.

Traders said the market was spooked by the uncertainties in the global economies and its impact on the local economy.

"Banks are not trying to drive up rates without a reason. Everybody knows that in the region, we are one of the more vulnerable economies and banks also want to be paid a premium for their investments," a trader from a local bank said.

Edeza said the market should not fear that the government was already saturating the domestic and even foreign fund sources. He said the alternative sources of domestic funding would mean a cut in the size of the weekly government borrowing.

The government now only borrows about P3.5 billion from the market through the auction of treasury bills every Monday and about P3 billion from the sale of treasury bonds every Tuesday.

He said the government had been trying to accelerate its foreign borrowings for next year to avoid paying higher for its borrowings if spreads on Philippine sovereign debts continue to widen.

Spex plans to put up $80-M gas pipeline

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE CHIEF of Shell Philippines Exploration BV, the main operator of the Malampaya natural gas project, said last week that the company was keen on putting up an $80-million pipeline that would bring gas from Batangas to Metro Manila.

"We are looking very seriously at the possibility of extending the Malampaya pipeline all the way to Sucat," Spex managing director David Greer told reporters.

A 504-km submarine pipeline is already waiting to transport natural gas from the sub-sea wells northwest of Palawan to a processing facility in Batangas.

Malampaya's 2.4 trillion-cubic-feet yield is expected to start flowing next month.

"We are now in preliminary discussions with our partners and the Department of Energy to see what could be done," Greer said.

Spex and Texaco Philippines Inc. have 45-percent stake each in the project while state firm PNOC Exploration Corp. has 10 percent.

The Lopez-controlled First Gas Power Corp. is also involved in the plan to construct the 100-km pipeline.

Greer said that whether the project would be separated from the Malampaya deep-water-gas-to-power project depended on what agreements or arrangements would be put in place for downstream natural gas power stations.

He said one of the aspects that should be considered regarding the land-based pipeline was its being outside the scope of the Malampaya service contract.

In an earlier interview, Energy Secretary Vicente Perez Jr. said two dozen economic zones along the route of the proposed pipeline were a potential market for the gas.

"Locators of these ecozones may have power generators that can be fuelled with natural gas," Perez said in a press briefing.

Also, he said the buildings and other facilities of the firms could use gas-fed air-conditioning technology.

Aside from a ready market of three power plants with an aggregate capacity of 2,700 megawatts, the Malampaya consortium is also looking at parallel developments in other uses of natural gas.

He added that the gas market was dependent on the energy matrix of the country.

"Natural gas is the cleanest hydrocarbon known to man. It is indigenously available, so why import oil and coal if you already have your own natural gas?" the official asked.

SEC junks ASB petition

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has rejected a request of the ASB group for an authority to use the proceeds of the sale of its 28-percent stake in DBS Bank Phil. to partially pay individual unsecured creditors.

In July, the SEC ordered that proceeds of the sale of the group's DBS shares amounting to P200 million be turned over directly to Fortunato Cruz, the ABS group's rehabilitation receiver. Cruz is, in turn, required to deposit the funds in a reputable bank that is not a creditor of the group.

The fund, according to the SEC order, should be delivered to the project governing board tasked to take possession of and administer an asset pool created to pay unsecured creditors of the ASB group. The governing board is composed of creditors, receivers and shareholders.

Individual unsecured creditors of ABS argued that instead of delivering the funds to the asset pool, the money should be made available for the settlement of the unsecured creditors' exposure in the group.

In an order, the SEC hearing panel noted that the asset pool "is a crucial component of the rehabilitation plan, meant not only to settle the obligations of petitioners to unsecured creditors but also to rehabilitate and restore the operations of the ASB group of companies."

"The asset pool is envisioned to generate and build up funds to complete unfinished developments, start new projects and eventually enable petitioners to settle all of their obligations, particularly to the unsecured creditors," the panel said. "Thus, it is for the best interest of the unsecured creditors that the proceeds of the sale of DBS shares be contributed to the asset pool rather than be distributed to them in payment."

Meanwhile, the SEC also approved a memorandum of agreement between the ASB group and International Exchange Bank that provided for the retirement of about P494.69 million of the real estate group's combined debt to i-bank and Standard Chartered Bank.

In turn, the ASB group will transfer certain assets with a book value of P366.95 million to a new company to be controlled by i-bank.

Late April, the SEC, through a three-member hearing panel, approved the proposed rehabilitation plan of the ASB group, which has liabilities of over P12 billion.

The ASB group owes a total P3.9 billion to over 700 unsecured individual creditors and over P5 billion to various creditor banks.

Realty firm launches farm estate project

PROPERTY development firm Mancon-CBDC is slated to launch this Saturday, Oct. 20, its 20-hectare Lipa Farm Estates project, the first and only managed farm project in the country.

Mancon-CBDC president Mario A. Oreta said the project was aimed at the A and B segments of the market. It offers novel features that combine "the luxury of a lush, pristine environment with the efficiency of a business district."

The Lipa Farm Estates nestles in the foothills of the famous Mt. Malarayat, a stone's throw from the golf and country club.

Oreta said that the "by-invitation-only" launch would bring together Metro Manila-based businessmen and executives who were looking for prime property that would allow them to conveniently shuttle between urban-based work and a farm.

The project also caters to the need of Malarayat golf club members for residential facilities near the course.

The project features Japanese architecture-inspired residences and a plant nursery from which the residents may source vegetable and fruit-bearing plants for their plot. The developers provide full-time gardeners and farm managers who will assist and advise residents on the requirements of their gardens.

Mancon-CBDC is the joint venture corporation of Mancon Berhad of Malaysia and Constant Builders Development Corp. (CBDC) of the Philippines. CBDC was responsible for the construction of the Tagaytay Highlands, the Caylabne Bay Resort, the Tagaytay Southridge Estates, the Mountain Ridge Resort in Laurel, Batangas, and several housing projects in Rizal, Laguna, Cavite and Leyte.

It is with great pleasure that I convey my warmest greetings to the Department of Energy and Shell Philippines Exploration B.V. on the Inauguration of the Malampaya Deep Water Gas to Power Project.

Today marks not only a significant day in history but also the crowning moment of an enterprise that has tested the commitment of its partners to live by its vow to sustainable development. The inauguration of the Malampaya Deep Water gas that was primarily designed to make the first delivery of natural gas to the new Sta. Rita and Ilijan power plants, signals the birth of the country's natural gas industry.

This event underscores the importance of an unparalleled industrial investment in a nation that is waging its war against poverty. Likewise, it highlights the prime economic benefits for the Filipinos who have historically relied heavily on imported fuel for our power requirements. This worthy endeavor aims to generate 2.7 trillion cubic feet of natural gas and 85 million barrels of condensate, an indigenous source from which will flow enough fuel to provide us with some 2,700 MW of power for more than 20 years. Indeed, it marks the start of our independence from oil importation.

The Malampaya Deep Water Gas to Power is a paramount testament to what human harmony can achieve. May this undertaking lead us to working together for greater peace, progress and prosperity.

Congratulations and Mabuhay kayong lahat!

GMArroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
PRESIDENT
Republic of the Philippines

Congratulations to Shell Philippines Exploration B.V., Texaco Philippines, and the Philippine National Oil Company-Exploration Corporation (PNOC-EC) on the inauguration of the landmark Malampaya Deep-Water-Gas-to-Power Project on October 16, 2001, and the delivery of the Project's upstream component ahead of schedule.

As the largest infrastructure development and investment in the Philippines at US$4.8 billion, the project is the much-awaited boost to our economy, presenting us with much sociological and environmental benefit. Equally significant is the Project's being an engineering marvel that has overcome numerous challenges to convey the natural gas from 3,000 metres below sea level off the coast of Northwest Palawan, across 504 kilometres to the onshore gas plant in Tabangao, Batangas and, finally, to three power stations in the province, which will produce 2,700 megawatts of clean power.

The advantages of this project will be virtually limitless in light of new investment opportunities, on top of the derivable US$8 billion in government revenues for the next 20 years, and another US$7.8 billion in savings on electricity, foreign exchange and environmental costs.

I must also commend the Project's exemplary sustainable development programs and initiatives on people empowerment, that have imparted technical skills and employment strategies through numerous self-help programs, as well as sensitivity towards guardianship of our natural resources.
The Malampaya team, including thousands of Filipino workers who have exemplified excellence and good work ethics, has truly done the country proud, and we, thus, pray that this Project will only be the beginning of a series of more Malampaya for a vibrant Philippines.

Vincent S. Perez
VINCENT S. PEREZ, JR.
Secretary
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

This trailblazing undertaking is a lasting legacy to our country, whose immense and multi-faceted value will be enjoyed by future generations of Filipinos. It places the Philippines in the global map of oil and gas producers. It heralds a better future for the country.

Its inauguration marks a fitting end of a long journey of hydrocarbons discovery, appraisal and development, of commercial negotiations for long-term gas and power purchase agreements, and of world-class engineering, project management and execution. It also symbolizes a new beginning of economic, environmental and social opportunities that this project will usher in.

The Malampaya project stands out as a highly visible manifestation of our potential for national success when our national and local leadership and society create and sustain a healthy climate in which businesses can commit massive domestic and international resources and can operate efficiently and professionally.

The Shell companies in the Philippines are privileged and honoured to have played a major role in transforming this national vision to reality.

I salute the Department of Energy under the inspiration of our national leadership, our various partners in this project, and the management, staff and contractors of SPEX who have given themselves selflessly to this monumental task. A warm Mabuhay!

OReyes
OSCAR S. REYES
COUNTRY CHAIRMAN,
SHELL COMPANIES IN THE PHILIPPINES

I would like to extend my very warmest thanks to all friends and supporters of the Malampaya Deep Water Gas to Power Project on this very important day. The support and encouragement that we have received from all stakeholders has been a key factor in helping us deliver this project on behalf of the Department of Energy for the benefit of the Filipino people, safely, on time and within budget.

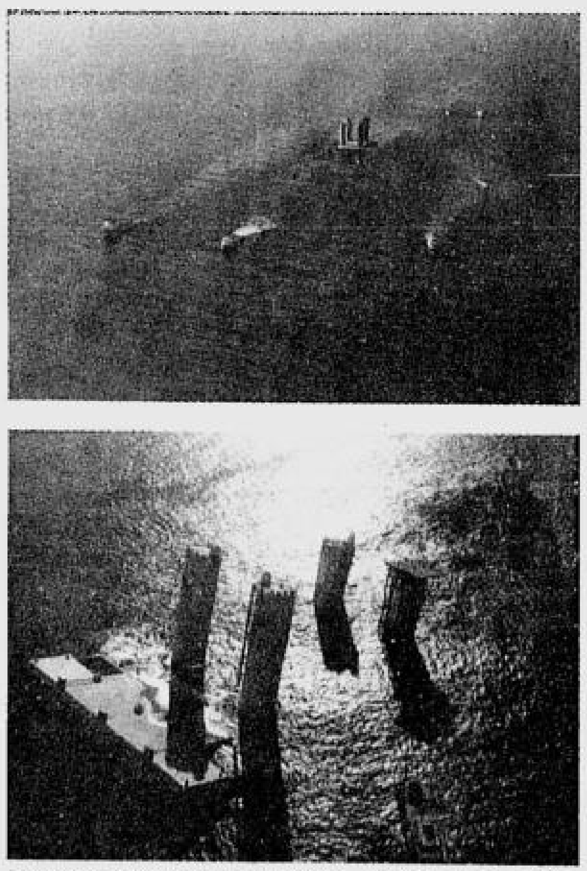
The development of this huge and complex project following the Declaration of Commerciality on May 14th 1998 was a very serious undertaking. In the furtherance of this object of national interest, we have just embarked upon one of the greatest industrial undertakings in the history of the Philippines. Many people have offered much toil and sweat to help in the attainment of this goal. Throughout this period, the Malampaya team has demonstrated tremendous ingenuity, passion and a sustained capability to work professionally and responsibly against very tight deadlines. They have also shown the flexibility to cope with the unexpected and unprecedented. For all of this effort, I thank them sincerely.

As the very demanding and challenging Malampaya Project development phase draws to a close, the memories of the many successes achieved throughout this intense period of activity are still vivid. Like a ship that passes over the horizon, whilst it may no longer be visible, the efforts of all its crew will never be forgotten. So, as this phase of the Malampaya story draws to an end, the personal efforts of everyone involved in this phase of the Project will never be forgotten in terms of the tremendous contribution they have made to the Malampaya story. For those involved in project development activities, the Malampaya story is about to end. In reality, the Malampaya story is just about to begin.

May the warmth of the Malampaya Flame bestow health, fortitude, happiness, peace and prosperity upon upon all Friends of Malampaya. Mabuhay tayong lahat!

DAVID J. GREER
MANAGING DIRECTOR
SHELL PHILIPPINES EXPLORATION B.V.

MALAMPAYA: A DREAM REALISED



Towing and installation of the concrete gravity structure was an engineering breakthrough for the Philippines.

SHORTLY before the turn of the new millennium, work began on what is the most ambitious and largest infrastructural investment in the history of Philippine business.

The project required the design and construction of facilities similar to those found in the oil fields of the Middle East, the North Sea in Europe and the Gulf of Mexico. It aimed to extract, process and transport 28-million year old natural gas from more than three kilometers below the sea level, 820 metres deep. Then, convey it some 504 kilometres under water through the deep ocean, and finally, use the gas to energise three combined-cycle clean power plants, from where power could be distributed to the Luzon grid for electricity.

Brief History

Development of the Malampaya Deep Water Gas to Power Project may be traced as far back as 12 years ago, when the Camago gas field was discovered in 1989 in offshore Palawan. Further exploration by Shell led to the discovery of the Malampaya field in 1992 within the vicinity of Camago, and led to the conclusive finding that the two fields were connected.

The Malampaya field has proven natural gas reserves of 2.7 trillion cubic feet (tcf) of recoverable natural gas and 85 million barrels of condensate, enough for commercial development.

The Challenges

Evidently, the challenges of developing the Malampaya gas were as colossal as the project itself. Thanks to the continued research and development of new engineering methods by Shell and its contractors, what was deemed impossible has become reality.

Then came the other great challenge: reaching the market. With the huge volume of commercial gas in the field, the only market capable of consuming such large quantities of gas was the Luzon power market—which is more than 500 kilometres away from the gas field. And then, too, no power station in Luzon was capable of processing natural gas.

"Without a market, natural gas has no real value. Part of the challenge was to create a market - to ensure that there were buyers for Malampaya gas," explained Shell Philippines Exploration Managing Director David J. Greer.

Yet another challenge was the timeframe. From 1994 to 1998, negotiations with government and potential gas buyers took place to put together gas sales and purchase agreements.

Shell companies in the Philippines Country Chairman Oscar S. Reyes stated, "Discussions were tough, negotiations prolonged and intense as we were breaking new ground with the first-ever long-term gas agreements in the country aimed at commercialising the rich Malampaya natural gas reserves. We succeeded because all parties shared a clear view of the significant value Malampaya offered to create, and a strong sense of contributing to the national interest."

Simultaneously, further appraisal of the gas field and development feasibility studies took place.

By the time the government under former President Fidel V. Ramos declared the project's commerciality, only three and a half years were left for Shell to execute the undertaking and meet the October 1, 2001 deadline for the first gas delivery.

Project Components

To deliver the gas, various components had to be constructed and installed simultaneously. A global team was formed– to design, develop, administer, fabricate and build the Malampaya components.

On the seabed, some 820 metres deep, now lies a subsea system composed of five subsea wellheads and a manifold. Each of the wellheads, or Christmas trees as they are known in the oil and gas industry, sits on top of a developed well bore. From the wellhead, the gas is directed to the manifold, and then to two 30-kilometre flowlines leading to the production platform where the gas is dried.

Condensate and water are separated from the gas and temporarily stored in the base of the platform called the concrete gravity structure (CGS), which was built in Subic Bay.

The dried gas is then transported through a 504-kilometre subsea pipeline traversing the northernmost part of Palawan, around the east coast of Mindoro and to the onshore gas plant in Tabangao, Batangas. The plant further processes the gas to meet the buyer's specifications. From the plant, the gas is delivered via onshore pipelines to the country's first combined-cycle gas fired power stations.

Records Set

Within three and a half years, permits and certificates were acquired, contracts were signed and the individual hardware components designed, built and installed. These were completed while meeting the highest safety and environmental protection standards.

Engineering records were achieved in the process of accomplishing the project, such as the float-over installation of the topsides facilities, which, at 11,500 tons, is the heaviest float-over installation ever undertaken in the world. The tow-out of the CGS, the drilling of deep water production wells, installation of the subsea system and laying of the 504-kilometre pipeline were all engineering breakthroughs in the Philippines. The offshore pipeline is considered to be one of the longest deep-water pipelines in the world, and the deep water wells are amongst the deepest outside of the American continent.

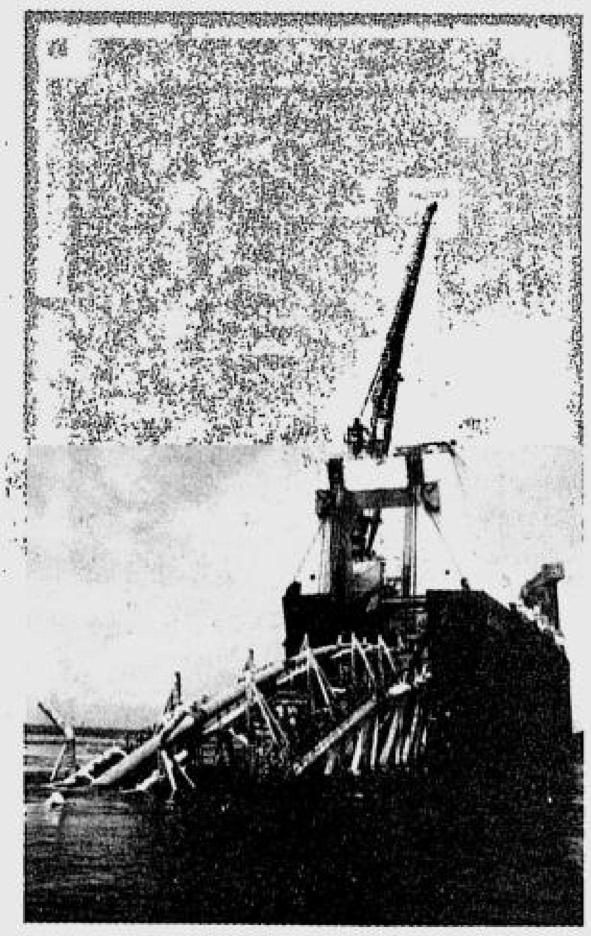
The Country's Gains

From Malampaya, the national government stands to gain some $8 to $10 billion in revenue over 20 years. Furthermore, the undertaking will decrease the country's dependence on imported fuel for power generation. This means a great amount of foreign exchange savings due to lessened crude oil imports.

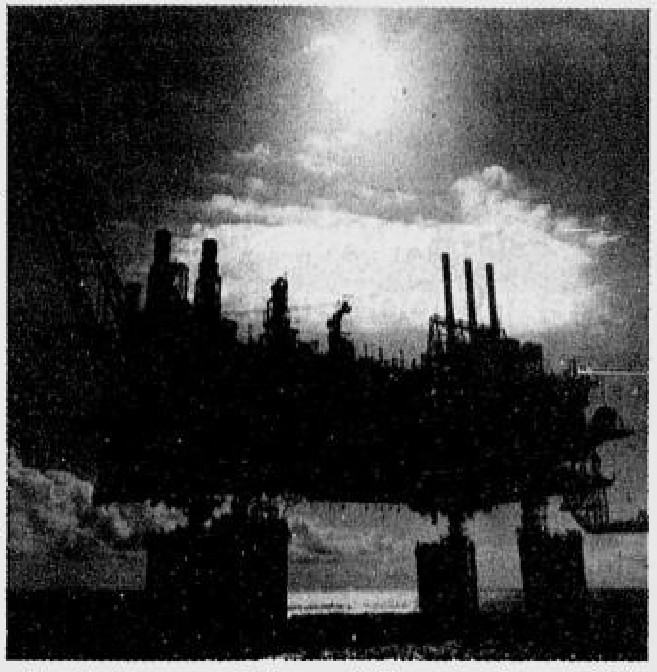
On the environmental front, natural gas is the cleanest and most efficient hydrocarbon fuel available to man and results in a dramatic reduction in noxious emissions from the country's power stations.

Malampaya has heralded the birth of the natural gas industry in the Philippines. In an era that is very much dependent on power for progress, Malampaya will contribute greatly to the stabilisation of power availability in Luzon and to the improvement of the energy mix in the Philippines.

Undoubtedly, Malampaya is a world class vision that has been realised here in the Philippines, breaking new records in the process as well as breaking a new dawn in the country.



Laying of the 504-kilometre pipeline took nine months and involved the welding of about 42,000 pipes each 12 metres in length.



The Malampaya offshore platform is where initial processing of gas from the reservoir will take place.

Finally, something to

We are witnessing the birth of a new industry from deep water wells offshore Palawan. The Mal
ocean floor and turning it into valuable electric power. This project enables the supply of clean, e
not just government revenues but also economic growth and progress. Exper

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MALAMPAYA
DEEP WATER GAS TO POWER

fuel our dreams.

ampaya Deep Water Gas to Power project has risen, extracting natural gas from deep beneath the
nvironment-friendly fuel slated to provide 2,700 megawatts of power for 20 years. This represents
ts call it the "fuel of the future". But we call it the fuel to power the future.

Japan slump seen to further deepen

TOKYO—The Bank of Japan cut its assessment of the economy yesterday for the fifth straight month as a prolonged economic slump at home and concerns over the impact of the attacks in the US depressed recovery hopes.

"Adjustments in economic activity are becoming more severe, as the substantial decline in production has a negative influence on employment and income conditions," the central bank said in its monthly report.

"In addition, the terror attacks in the US have further heightened uncertainty in Japan's economy," it warned.

The slowdown in the world's No. 2 economy should bottom out by spring, but uncertainty still lingers over the terror-effect, which could exasperate the slump.

"There exists a risk that the prolonged downturn in US private consumption affected by the terrorist attacks would induce another round of adjustments in the Japanese economy, starting from the decline in exports such as consumer goods," it said.

On Friday the BoJ voted to maintain its ultra loose grip on monetary policy, pledging to keep liquidity levels high—above Y6 trillion ($50 billion)—and interest rates effectively at zero.

Exports continue to drop as worldwide demand for goods deteriorates, prompting businesses to cut back on investment and as a result, private consumption—a key indicator of economic health—although still flat looks likely to erode, the bank said.

"Private consumption remains almost flat on the whole, although somewhat weak indicators are increasing recently," it noted.

The effects of the sluggish economy had filtered through to individual households.

"The decrease in corporate profits, particularly in manufacturing, has become evident and household income weakens gradually," the assessment said, using stronger words than in September.

In another development, Tokyo has reported a 27.1 percent fall in Japan's current account surplus in August from a year earlier to Y708.6 billion ($5.86 billion).

The finance ministry said the August current account figures included Y47.2 billion deficit in trade of goods and services, Y851.4 billion in financial income and a deficit of Y95.6 billion in monetary transfers.

The trade surplus in the month fell 37.3 percent to Y482.8 billion, with exports falling 9.5 percent to Y3,640.0 billion and imports losing 2.9 percent to Y3,157.3 billion.

The current account surplus measures the flow of goods, services and investment income, and other financial transfers.

AFP

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
Informal Senior Officials' Meeting
15-16 October 2001

APEC'S ANNUAL MEET

SENIOR economic officials from 21 Pacific Rim economies met at the International Convention Center in Shanghai yesterday (Oct. 15). The officials started their annual talks amid tight security in advance of the Oct. 20-21 summit that caps the week-long series of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) meetings. REUTERS

TOKYO RESEARCH REPORT

Bankruptcies rising

TOKYO—Bankruptcies in Japan over April-September rose to their third highest level since World War II as an economic slump caused many firms to bleed, a research center said Monday.

Total major failures rose 2 percent from a year earlier to 9,665, the largest number of collapses since the 10,034 marked in the first half of 1998, said private credit research firm Teikoku Databank Ltd.

But combined liabilities fell 33.6 percent to 7.244 billion yen ($59.9 billion) in the absence of huge bankruptcies until September when failed supermarket Mycal Corp. went bust, it said.

"It is obvious that Japan has entered deflation-induced recession," the agency said in a report. It noted April-September gross domestic product shrank 0.8 percent from the previous quarter and the jobless rate hit a record 5-percent high in July.

"The uncertainty over the future of the economy has been growing (since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington)," it said, adding that the Tokyo stock market was also in a critical situation.

The Tokyo Stock Exchange's key Nikkei-225 index shed around 25 percent of its value over April-September, further depressing company profits as, under new mark-to-market accounting rules, firms must evaluate shareholdings at face value and not at the price they were bought.

"Under these circumstances . . . Mycal finally went bust in September," rekindling concern over similar big companies, the research firm said.

A cut in public works spending by the government coupled with weak consumer spending, a drop in exports and reduction in capital expenditure, pointed to a further rise in bankruptcies in the months ahead, it warned.

AFP

China WTO entry expected to boost HK labor market

HONG KONG—China's entry to the World Trade Organization (WTO) is expected to offer new hopes for Hong Kong's labor market, a bank said in a report yesterday.

China's WTO entry, expected to be official by the yearend, would offer new hopes on at least two fronts, with great demand for sophisticated business services and people with modern management skills and experience in the mainland, the Bank of East Asia said in a statement.

It said demand in the mainland for services such as financial, legal, trading and logistics would rise as economic reform in China accelerated.

"Expertise in these areas probably cannot be developed fast enough in the mainland to meet the surge in demand. Clearly, there is a gap to be filled by Hong Kong," the bank said.

"The success of Hong Kong professionals in the mainland would also create new demand for services in our city and in turn, generate additional job opportunities."

The Bank of East Asia said the future success of Hong Kong hinged on its ability to use its business expertise in the mainland, adding "greater labor mobility will serve the economic needs of both Hong Kong and the mainland".

Hong Kong has been pinched by the United States slowdown and company restructuring, with the government warning unemployment was likely to rise further.

Latest figures showed 4.9 percent of the territory's 6.3 million people were now jobless.

Economic growth forecasts for the year have been slashed from 3 percent to one percent.

China is expected to become a fully-fledged member of the WTO in December after Beijing and its major trading partners agreed on its entry in September following 15 years of negotiations.

AFP

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Taiwan investments down 32%

TAIPEI—Private investment in major Taiwanese construction projects is expected to fall by a record 32 percent in 2002 amid a flagging economy, officials said yesterday.

The Industrial Development Bureau (IDB) said it estimated total investment in major Taiwanese projects—or those valued more than 200 million Taiwanese dollars ($5.8 million)—would fall to $475.2 billion.

"Many private enterprises are expected to scale back investments as a widely anticipated economic recovery had been pushed back after the Sept. 11 (terrorist attacks on the United States)," a spokesperson for the economics ministry unit told AFP.

"Those that are already suffering sizable losses from the global slowdown this year may stop making any new investments at all," the IDB spokesperson added.

The Taiwanese government estimates total major private sector investments for this year will total $699.9 billion, down 2.8 percent from 1999.

Analysts generally expect Taiwan's gross domestic product (GDP) to contract by 1.0-2.0 percent this year from the fallout of the terror attacks and typhoon Nari, which had devastated areas in the north with the worst flooding in a century in September.

Taiwan's government has forecast a 0.4-percent drop in GDP for this year.

The island's information technology sector was expected to be the hardest hit, with major investments plunging a record 47 percent to $233.2 billion next year, the IDB official said.

The estimated figure would account for 49 percent of the total major investments by private enterprises in Taiwan for 2002, down from 72 percent this year, he added.

Major investments in chemical-related industries next year were estimated at $170 billion, followed by $72 billion in the metal machinery and automobile sectors.

Combined major investments in the nine months to September accumulated to $575.4 billion, up 1.4 percent from the same period last year.

AFP

S. Korean firms move to block Gates' path

SEOUL—Microsoft Corp. tycoon Bill Gates arrives in South Korea today as firms in the world's most intense Internet-user nation build a case to block his company's new Windows XP operating system.

Gates is to spend two days in Seoul to promote the new system ahead of its worldwide launch on Oct. 25, see Korean technology executives and speak at an international business conference.

Microsoft officials will not say whether Gates, one of the foreign businessmen most admired by President Kim Dae-Jung, will try to intervene with a consortium of 18 firms led by Daum Communications, South Korea's No. 1 Internet portal, trying to stop Windows XP.

But the consortium poses a major challenge to Windows XP, which features a bundle of advanced features including Internet phone, instant messenger, and digital media capabilities.

Experts have hailed it as a major upgrade over predecessors, easier to use and more stable.

But the development of Windows XP has been rocked by a series of controversial components, an anti-trust trial with the US government, and the European Commission is reportedly seeking a massive anti-trust fine.

In Korea, which leads Asia's Internet industry with home high-speed broadband usage at near saturation point, firms regard the Windows XP's bundle, including an instant messenger and software for Internet phones and digital photo process, as a threat to their business.

They insist Windows XP could impede competition, as well as consumer choice and privacy.

"Windows XP will strip consumers of their chance to select the service they want. It will restrict competition," said Daum spokesperson Kwon Kyong-Hee.

The 18 firms seeking an injunction to block the sale of Windows XP filed a complaint with the Seoul District Court on Oct. 4.

Microsoft, however, said its new product would threaten competitors. "The application programs on Window XP is only intended to increase consumers' convenience," Microsoft Korea's promotion official Jung Ki-Soo said.

"These programs are a standard technology which cannot be sold for a price," he said.

Microsoft also faces a hostile campaign by South Korean Internet users advocating free information. Windows XP requires users to download an online passport to prevent piracy.

"Requiring all users to get online certification is like saying all individual users are illegal," Lee Hyuck, a free-information advocacy group, told the JoongAng newspaper.

But many personal computer makers welcome the new Windows system. They are seeking to win new customers by playing up the availability of Windows XP and Pentium 4 computers.

South Korea's market leader Samsung Electronics Co. has unveiled two new desktop computers and one laptop with Windows XP.

Daum launched its anti-XP campaign in September by filing a complaint with the country's Fair Trade Commission (FTC). But the commission has delayed its ruling.

"Our ruling will not come in the near future," an FTC official said, adding the FTC would follow Microsoft's court battles abroad. "That will be a reference for our judgement."

The US Supreme Court has refused to hear Microsoft's appeal in an anti-trust case by the US government. An appeals court has already upheld a lower court decision finding the software giant guilty of illegally abusing its monopoly.

The Wall Street Journal Europe said last week the European Commission might seek a $2.5-billion anti-trust fine against Microsoft.

The newspaper quoted a confidential commission document saying Microsoft deliberately designed Windows XP "so that it would not inter-operate with other companies software."

AFP

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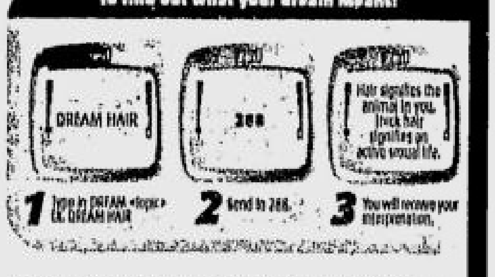

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OFFICE OF THE LIQUIDATOR

National Steel Corporation

NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS FOR THE LEASE OF THE NATIONAL STEEL CORPORATION ILIGAN PLANT

The Office of the Liquidator will accept sealed proposals for the operation of the Iligan Steel Plant of the National Steel Corporation through a lease arrangement no later than 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, **23 October 2001** at the Office of the Secretary, Department of Trade and Industry, Industry and Investments Building, 305 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

All those who were intending to submit lease proposals on **21 September 2001** are requested to submit such proposal as above-indicated.

All communications must be addressed to the:
Office of the Liquidator
National Steel Corporation
Unit 2701, 27th Floor
88 Corporate Center
Sedeno corner Valero Streets
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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **ERNESTO G. FALCIS** has been settled among his heirs by virtue of an extra-judicial settlement and agreement among heirs with waiver of rights dated July 27, 2001 and acknowledged before **MARIA LOURDES C. BELLO**, consul, City of Los Angeles, California, U.S.A and **DEOGRACIAS B. CONCHU** notary public for Makati City and entered in his Notarial Registre as Doc. No. 16, Page No. 5, Book No. 12, Series of 2001.

PERSONAL

THANK YOU MAMA MARY

THANK YOU PAPA JESUS

THANK YOU ST. JUDE

THANK YOU HOLY SPIRIT

He, who was a teacher to the last
to his family, his friends, and those whose
lives he touched...

HERMENEGILDO M. CABRERA

(Hermie)

has left on his final journey to the
house of his Father
last 14th of October 2001
at the age of 70

His widow, *Fe*; children, *Teresa, Martin & Len, Angelo & Tec, Ramon & Maricar, Lourdes & Richie, Cecilia & Ely, Agnes & Jun, Fr. Bogey, Rosemarie (†) and Margaret;* and grandchildren, *Didi, AA, JJ, MM, JC, JM, JL, JH, JT, Paolo, Mikko, Andre, Angeli, Carlo, Daniel, Kina, Joshua, Aaron, Naomi, Ivana, Julian, Alana and Zeth*

request for prayers to help him reach the heavenly kingdom of his Creator.

His remains lie in state at the Christ the King Memorial Chapel, beside Christ the King Church, Greenmeadows Avenue, Quezon City and will be interred at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina, Rizal after the 8:00 A.M. funeral Mass on Thursday, 18th of October 2001.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Rosemarie M. Cabrera Foundation, Inc. will be greatly appreciated.

DR. BENJAMIN N. SAN BUENAVENTURA

(Dr. Ben)

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 13, 2001
at the age of 69.

His loving father **Totong** (†); mother **Idad** (†); sister **Feling & Maning Belmonte** (†), **Puring** (†) **& Oro Rosales, Virgie & Donpeng Bernal, Angie & Cecille San Buenaventura**; children (**Bedista) Ace, Don, King**; **Foster Brother Noli**; uncles, aunties, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at No. 84 Justice Ramon Jobson St., Banbang, Pasig City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, October 17, 2001 at the Pasig Catholic Cemetery, Pasig City after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at Pasig Immaculate Concepcion Church.

WE LOVINGLY REMEMBER

the **4th Death Anniversary** of our Mother

FELISA SALVOSA TORRES

who joined her Creator on October 16, 1997

Holy Masses for her eternal peace and happiness will be offered today, October 16, 2001 at the following Churches:

St. Jerome the Parish Church	*Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa*	6:00 AM
St. James Parish Church	*Ayala Alabang*	6:00 AM
Carmelite Monastery of the Child Jesus	*Gilmor*	6:30 AM
Society of the Divine Word	*Kamuning, Quezon City*	6:00 AM
Divine Word Mission Seminary	*E. Rodriguez Sr. Blvd., Q.C.*	6:30 AM
St. John the Baptist Parish	*Pinaglabanan Church*	7:15 AM
Santuario de Santo Cristo Parish Church	*San Juan, Metro Manila*	7:00 AM
Archdiocesan Shrine of the Divine Mercy	*Maysilo St., Mandaluyong City*	6:00 AM
Santuario de San Antonio Parish Church	*Forbes Park, Makati City*	6:15 AM

We, the family, would like to request relatives, friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul. May her soul rest in peace with the Lord.

"All the days ordained for me
were written in Your book
before one of them came to be."
Psalm 139:16

ANITA JOHNSON LAMIGO-VILLANUEVA

Peacefully joined her Creator on October 12, 2001 at the age of 59.

Her husband **Albert**; son **Albert John**; brothers and sisters **Lucinda** and **Agustin Ortega**, **Manolo** and **Pacita**, **Jesus** and **Flor**, **Federico** and **Priscilla**, **Chona** and **Edgar Burdeos**, **Ricardo** and **Etta**, **Jose** and **Arlyn**, **Pompey** and **Evelyn**; nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City up to October 15, 2001 and will be flown on October 16, 2001 to lie in state at Mata Funeral Home, Butuan City.

Interment will be on Sunday, October 21, 2001 at the Butuan City (Bancasi) Memorial Park.

DANILO S. TOLENTINO

Director, Administration and Finance
Asian Productivity Organization (APO)
Tokyo, Japan

Peacefully joined his Creator on 10 October 2001 at the age of 59.

His beloved spouse **Belen;** loving children **Marybelle, Nathaniel,** and **Charissa;** sisters **Rebecca, Odette** and **Lilybeth;** relatives and friends request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Capilla de San Francisco, Sanctuario de San Antonio Parish, McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City from October 16-18, 2001.

Necrological services will be held at 7 p.m., Wednesday, 17 October 2001 at Capilla de San Francisco, Sanctuario de San Antonio Parish.

His remains will be brought to Malolos, Bulacan on Friday, 19 October 2001.

Final rites and interment will be held on Sunday, October 21, 2001 at 1 p.m. at the Barasoain Church, Malolos, Bulacan.

Captain ENRIQUE M. GEPILANO, JR.

68 YEARS OLD

Died in the Grace of our Lord
October 14, 2001

He is survived by his wife, children, grandchildren, brothers and relatives.
His remains lie in state at Cosmopolitan Memorial Chapel, Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City.
Interment will be announced later.

FELIZA V. OBILLO

of Balaoan, La Union and 359 P. Tuazon, Proj. 4, Q.C.

Joined her Creator on October 14, 2001.

Her remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Thursday, October 18, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City, after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at the Loyola Memorial Chapels.

I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die.

John 11:25-26

Whoever serves Me must follow Me; and where I am, My servant also will be.

John 12:16

Our Dear Papa

IGNACIO B. NEBRIDA, M.D.

Former Executive Director
Philippine Tuberculosis Society, Inc.

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 14, 2001
at the age of 84.

His bereaved wife **NITANG RIVERA**; his loving children **TOTO & BABY; ANGIE** (†) **& KLAUS BUNTUA; DR. LYNN & DR. RENE GEGA; BABY FATIMA,** and **VINCENT**; his grandchildren **DR. LIA & JOEY; ATTY. MARIE & AILEEN & CORNELL; TRIXIE, ERICA & ARCHIE; CHRISTIE & JODI**; brothers and sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to offer prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on October 20, Saturday at Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

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GMA to keynote Creba, HUDCC confab

MACAPAGAL

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will keynote the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations (Creba) and Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) national convention at the Bacolod Convention Plaza Hotel in Bacolod City on Oct. 18-20.

The convention has for its theme "Housing: Key to National Healing and Economic Recovery." It is the prelude to the Housing Summit to be convened by the President in Manila on Oct. 30.

Creba national president Charlie V. Gorayeb and Purita R. Soliven, Creba vice president for internal affairs and overall national convention chair, will welcome the convention delegates. Dr. Jaime A. Cura, immediate past Creba national president, will be the master of ceremonies.

During the housing policy forum, Secretary Michael T. Defensor, presidential housing adviser and concurrently HUDCC chair, will talk on "Housing: Policy and Directions." Rep. Prospero C. Nograles (first district, Davao City), chair of the House committee on housing, and Sen. Francisco K. Pangilinan, chair of the Senate committee on housing, resettlement and urban development, will discuss the priority legislative housing agenda. Rep. Eduardo C. Zialcita (lone district, Parañaque City) will talk on House Bill 1300, known as the Omnibus Housing and Urban Development Act that he principally authored.

Forum

A property development forum will be held with Creba director Techie P. Bautista as overall coordinator.

Speakers on the issue "How Developers are Coping with the Crisis" include lawyer Anthony Charlemagne Yu, president, Empire East Land Holdings Inc.; Ricardo Pascua, president, Metro Pacific Corp.; and Andrew Gotianun, president, Filinvest Development Corp. Other speakers are Frederick D. Go, chief operating officer and second VP, Robinsons Land Corp.; Demetrio I. Posadas, chair, Fortune Star Construction and Development Corp.; Rafael A. Poblador, president, Satellite Housing Contractors and Development Corp.

Donald G. Dee, president of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines, will talk on corporate housing relative to employee productivity. Wilhelm G. Ortaliz, deputy director general of the Philippine Economic Zone Authority will discuss "Real Estate Development Opportunities in the Eco Zones."

The other speakers and their topics are Lt. Gen. Jose M. Calimlim, chair, AFP Housing Board, the AFP housing program; Ernesto S. Pangan, Education Undersecretary for finance and administration, teachers' housing program; architect Prosperidad A. Luis, national president, United Architects of the Philippines, "Innovative Housing Designs"; and engineer Isidro A. Consunji, president, Philippine Contractors Association, "Infrastructure Development in Support of Housing."

Workshops

Housing delivery workshops will be conducted with Rosemarie C. Basa, Creba public relations officer; and lawyer Cesilo A. Adaza, chair, Creba Cagayan de Oro chapter, as overall coordinators.

Presenters on housing regulations and requirements are Commissioner and CEO Romulo Q. Fabul of the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board, Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernando A. Braganza and Land Registration Authority administrator Senecio O. Ortile.

The workshop and housing targets and production will have NHA general manager Edgardo D. Pamintuan, National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. president Angelico T. Salud and Home Guaranty Corp. president Gonzalo Bongolan.

Presenters at the housing finance workshop are Pag-Ibig Fund president and CEO Manuel C. Crisostomo, Social Security System president Corazon Dela Paz, Development Bank of the Philippines VP Teresita S. Liwanag, Land Bank of the Philippines SVP Rodrigo B. Supeña, Bankers Association of the Philippines president Placido Mapa and Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael B. Buenaventura. Choy L. Alas and Florante C. Ofrecio of Creba are the facilitator and the rapporteur, respectively.

Jaime C. Millan, chair of the Creba Youth, will oversee the signing of agreements under the Creba Business Matching program. The program is aimed at matching the resources, services and needs of Creba members with those of others through mutually beneficial complementation.

Convention committees

Creba VP for external affairs Avelina P. Acuña is the overall convention vice chair, while John Marie Lizares is the overall vice chair for the Creba Negros Occidental chapter.

Chairpersons of the convention committees include Teresita C. Millan, budget; Jerry M. Navarrete and Lilia T. Aaron with Alan L. Ang and Franklin Fuentebella of Bacolod, ways and means; Techie P. Bautista, Domingo D. De Vera, program; Editha L. Manansala, souvenir magazine; Demetrio L. Posadas, invitation; Florentino S. Dulalia Jr., attendance; and Rosemarie C. Basa, press relations and marketing.

Other chairpersons are Catherine D. Yulo, with Eduardo Villanueva and Jose Roberto Cuaycong of Bacolod, entertainment and socio-civic activities; lawyer Luis B. Pangilinan Jr. sports; Vitus P. Cruz and Choy L. Alas, preconvention workshop; Leticia Sampan, Tatiana Gorayeb, reception; Manuel T. Ramos, with Bacolod's Eduardo L. Taruc, transportation; and Rolando A. Dantes, trade exhibit.

'HOME FREE PROGRAM' PARTICIPANT
First Georgetown Ventures Inc., developer of Georgetown Lakeview Vacation Estate in Metro Tagaytay, has finalized its buyer's financing package deal with Philippine Savings Bank wherein prospective house and lot buyers at Georgetown can avail of PSBank's "Home Free" program. The buyers can get back the principal amount of their loan, thus making their house and lot package "free." Loan terms range from 15 to 30 years at competitive interest rates fixed for one year. Buyers only need to pay the interest for the first five years because of the five-year grace period being offered by the bank. They will start amortizing their loan from the sixth year up to loan maturity. PSBank FVP-Mortgage Banking Division Rowena Oliveros and FGVI general manager Richmond Yang seal the agreement with a handshake.

Regulated use of chrysotile asbestos

THE PHILIPPINES, in step with 60 other countries such as the United States, Canada, Japan and Taiwan, has adopted the enlightened policy of control by regulation and did not ban the safe and responsible use of chrysotile asbestos.

Baltazar Trinidad, president of the Association of Asbestos Industries of the Philippines, cited the Chemical Control Order for Asbestos, DENR Administrative Order 2000-02, as the applicable and relevant regulation in point.

The said order allows the use of chrysotile asbestos for the following high-density products:

- Fire proof clothing; roofing felts or related products
- Asbestos cement roofing; asbestos cement flat sheet; friction materials
- High-temperature textiles products; gaskets
- Mechanical packing materials
- High-grade electrical paper
- Battery separators; and other high density products.

It, however, prohibits the use of asbestos in the manufacture of toys, pipe and boiler lagging, low density jointing compounds, corrugated and commercial paper, untreated textiles, flooring felt and covering, rollboard, specialty paper and other low density products.

Trinidad noted that during a congressional hearing in Washington, D.C., on July 31 to examine the public and workplace hazards of asbestos, the US government agency officials, including the heads of the US Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the US Mine Safety and Health Administration, and an assistant administrator of the US Environmental Protection Agency, were all unanimous in responding that control of the use of chrysotile asbestos by regulation, and not its banning, is and remains the proper course of action. Even the strong AFL-CIO, in its position paper, did not call for a ban on asbestos, but rather recommended increased awareness training for workers.

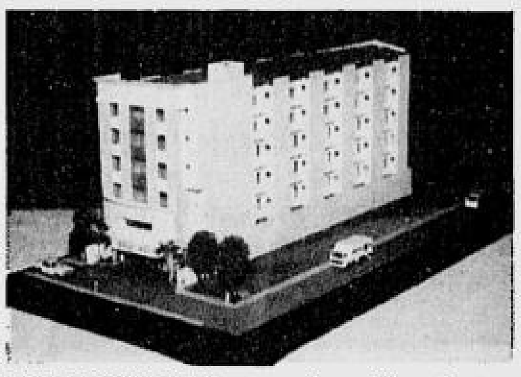
In the wake of the Sept. 11 terroristic attacks on the World Trade Center in New York, an article in The New York Times by James Glanz and Andrew Revkin posed the question whether the steel beams and trusses of the Twin Towers would have held longer and not readily collapsed if they had been properly treated with asbestos-containing materials. As pointed out in the said article, asbestos was highly prized as a fireproofing component because of its high melting point and its resistance to chemical breakdown. It also conducts little heat and its fibers create strong, supple materials.

In a related article in The Times of London, Mark Henderson stated that "asbestos cladding around the steel beams and columns that collapsed would have protected them against the heat for minutes or hours longer, allowing crucial extra time for the occupants to escape." He also quoted Prof. Richard Wilson, professor of Physics at the Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, saying that asbestos insulation on the Twin Towers would probably have kept the buildings standing for up to four hours.

The Asbestos Institute of Canada has stated that there appears to be a perception that certain quarters wantonly and maliciously declaring all asbestos unsafe are traceable to entities or outfits allied to or connected in one way or another to companies involved in the manufacture of replacement fibers, and refined alternative products, such as those using refined silica sand, which are, however, themselves hazardous to health.

Trinidad concluded that with the promulgation of the CCO, the local industries using chrysotile asbestos have undertaken, in coordination with the proper governmental agencies, especially the Environmental Management Bureau of the DENR wider informative campaigns, preventive and control programs to see to it that proper regulations on the safe and responsible use of chrysotile asbestos are implemented for the safety, health and welfare of everyone—for the workers and the consuming public alike.

New hotel targets OFWs



THE ARCHITECT'S perspective of the six-story Kabayan Hotel

DESPITE the downturn in the tourism sector, hotel and hospitality firm The Legend Hotels International remains optimistic about its growth target. The company, the developer of The Legend Hotel both in Manila and Palawan, is now busy working on the finishing touches of its latest project Kabayan Hotel.

Constructed as a hotel-cum de luxe dormitory, it will be the first of its kind in the country. What's more remarkable about the concept is that it is primarily geared to pay homage, and provide a temporary home, to our modern-day heroes, the overseas Filipino workers (OFWs).

"Kabayan Hotel is the answer to what we have found out to be a basic need of returning and departing OFWs," says Nelson L. Napud, The Legend Hotels president. "Most want to stay in a place besides that of their relatives where they can feel secure and comfortable," he adds.

With six stories, 75 hotel rooms, 38 dormitory rooms and a total of 228 beds, Kabayan Hotel is built according to stringent international standards. It features air-conditioned rooms, private toilet and bath, cable TV, 24-hour running hot and cold water, impeccable service staff, food and beverage and sophisticated fire protection system all with the OFWs needs and wants in mind.

"Kabayan," Napud explains, "is so named because it is the usual and accustomed greeting of Filipinos when they meet fellow Filipinos abroad."

Says Napud: "It is the most logical name for the hotel-dormtelle because it connotes closeness, trust and intimacy. The advantage of staying at Kabayan Hotel vis á vis staying at hotels is you partake of the same facilities without feeling intimidated."

Napud assures that once an OFW or value-conscious traveler steps into Kabayan Hotel, he will feel safe and secure after being disoriented from a long stay outside of his homeland. He will find the place affordable and worth every centavo of his hard-earned money. The staff, trained to be always courteous and accommodating, will provide warm personalized service. Convenience of the traveler is of utmost importance as well as his immaculate sanitary requirements.

Kabayan Hotel is located at the corner of Edsa and Zamora Street, Pasay City. It is near Rotonda, which is in close proximity to the airport, the Makati Central Business District, and major government offices,

The hotel will be a choice place of transient residence because of its affordable rates. A deluxe hotel room is pegged at P1,080 while a premium one is only P899. For dormitory accommodations, the rate is as low as P199 net per bed a day.

Italianni's Restaurant soon in Greenbelt

ITALIANNI'S will join the development in Ayala Land's Greenbelt Mall to complement the restaurant's expansion plans in the country.

The construction of the new branch in the mall's envisioned new restaurant row will be supervised by Italianni's general manager Paul Manuud. While relocation work is ongoing, Italianni's temporarily ceased operations in the Parkway Building last week. Meanwhile, guests can enjoy their favorite American-Italian dishes at Italianni's Bakery and Café at the Glorietta 4.

Italianni's is expected to reopen its new Greenbelt Mall branch late this year. The 270-seater branch will boast the same ambiance, great tasting food and efficient and friendly service that the restaurant is known for over four years. Italianni's is the most successful independent American-Italian restaurant in Metro Manila.

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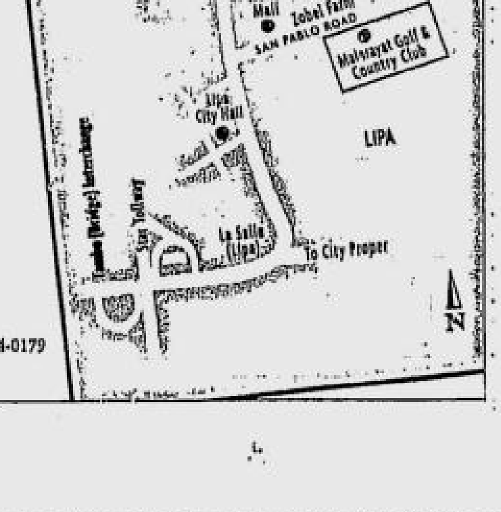


REAL ESTATE

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

We're cutting red tape, HUDCC reiterates

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

WE really have to address the processing of permits, because now it's still 288 signatures. We really have to shorten the period to 90 days simultaneous processing of applications and permits."

This was reiterated by presidential adviser on housing Michael T. Defensor, concurrently chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, just to make things crystal clear for everyone concerned.

Four months ago, members of the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association had expressed their strong support to government moves to cut red tape in the processing of housing loans and in the grant of permits for housing development.

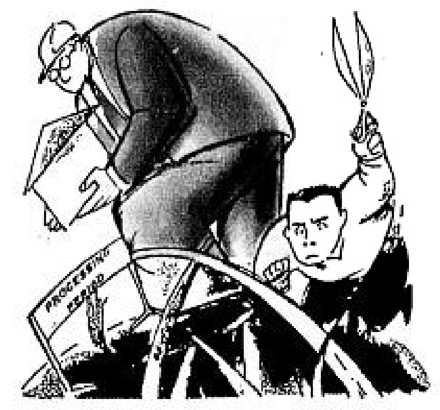


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

The real estate developers said that it is banking on the commitment made by Defensor to further streamline housing permit processes.

SHDA national president Mariano D. Martinez Jr. said three months ago that the HUDCC committed to facilitate the issuance of a presidential directive to further reduce the number of days in processing housing-related clearance and permits required from local government units and from other departments. The other departments are Interior and Local Government, the Environment and Natural Resources and the Agrarian Reform.

Aiming beyond targets

In other developments, Defensor said the HUDCC is also getting things done in the informal sector. Defensor added that the Council is not just complying with its targets, but even going beyond them. The informal sector has been described as the poorest of the poor—the segment that has yet to have a house and lot.

"The Smokey Mountain (development) will be finished in 8 to 10 months. We hope we could finish the houses before the end of the year so we could comply with our target."

Defensor stressed, however, that the housing backlog still remains at a daunting 4.2 million—down from 4.5 million.

Martinez, meanwhile, cited three factors that could work for the buyers' advantage. First, for the past two years, the prices of land haven't actually gone down. Prices were stuck at 1996-97 levels. Prepayment periods were extended, however, to keep them affordable. "The sale that should be paid in one year could now be paid in three, five or 10 years."

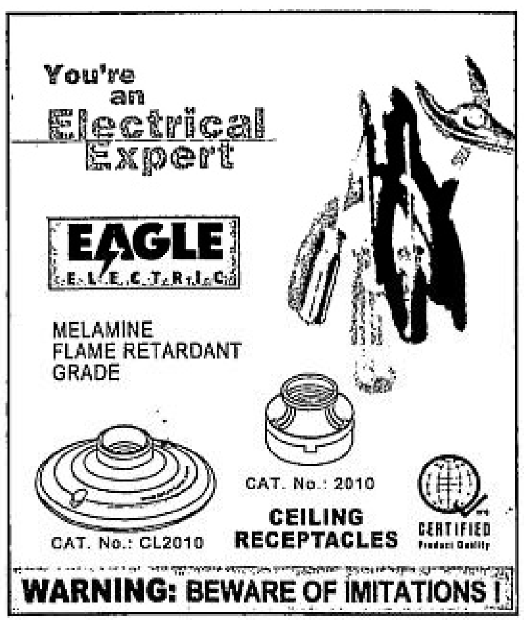
Second, real estate developers are now focusing on the endbuyers—the real buyers who would actually occupy the house.

"These are people who don't have enough cash in the banks. So what developers did was open the downpayment installment (option)."

Martinez also mentioned the Pag-Ibig Fund, which has made more people avail themselves of house and lot packages through loans.

Third, the past and present administrations have made housing their priority, as they have realized that housing is also a vehicle to create jobs.

"These may be why the market—house and lot packages below P2 million—is still moving," Martinez concluded.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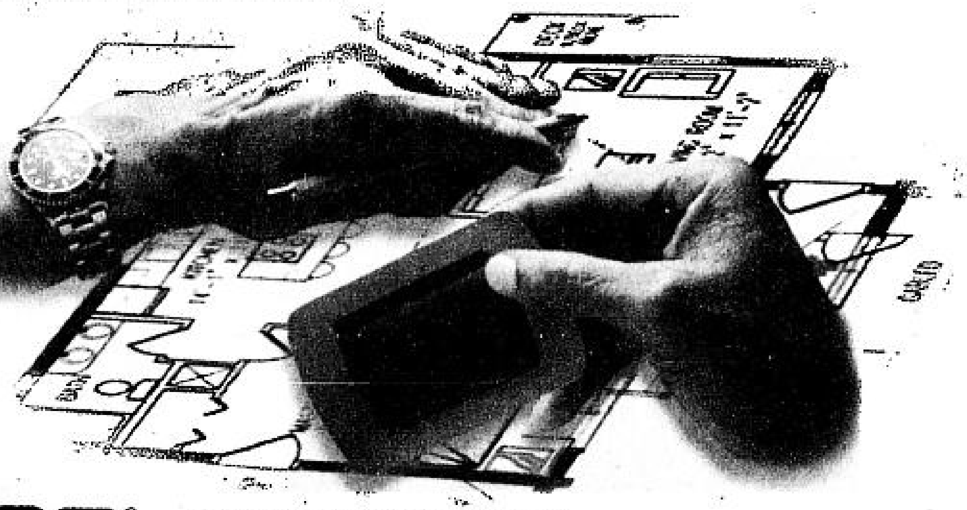
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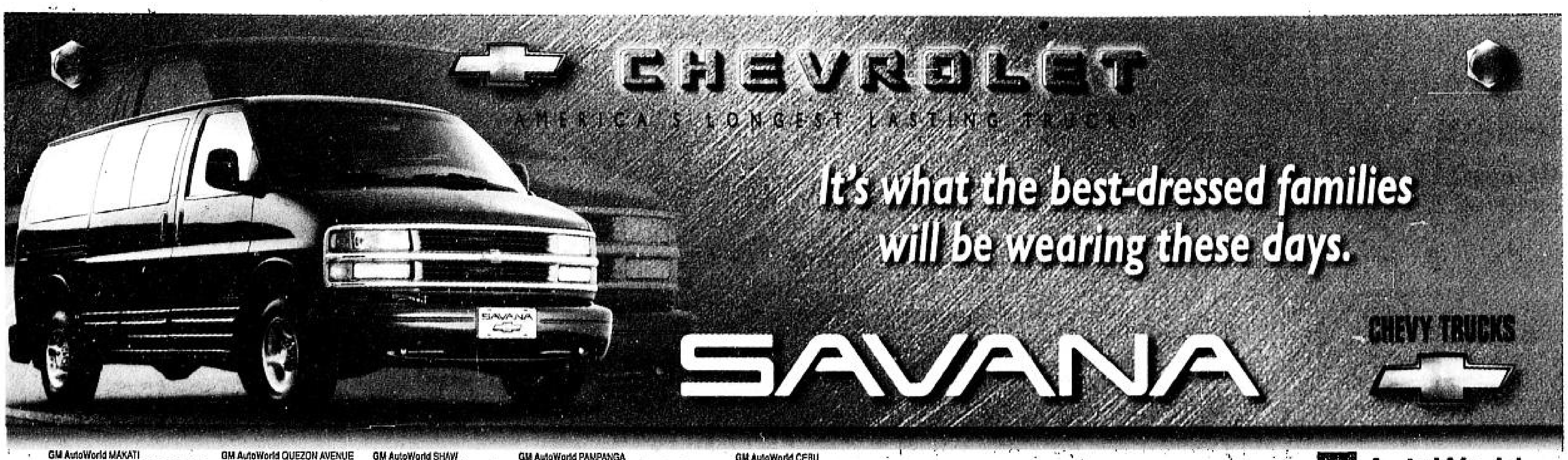
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CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

Fitness

New procedures may make eyeglasses museum pieces

By Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Betoy Johnson

WITH ALL the surgical options and new procedures to correct refractive errors of the eye, it's only a matter of time before eyeglasses and contact lenses go the way of the manual typewriter and become museum pieces.

Amblyopia or lazy eye afflicts up to five percent of children. The disorder refers to a condition where one eye is so much stronger than the other that it eventually renders the weaker one useless. If treated early—ideally before kindergarten but definitely before age 9, when brain-eye connections are set—it can be corrected by covering the strong eye with a patch for a few hours a day, thus strengthening the weak eye's links to the brain.

Around four diopters (a unit for measuring visual acuity or sharpness) of far-sightedness can now be treated with the excimer laser using Lasik or PRK. New treatments for far-sightedness higher than four diopters are under study in the United States.

For near-sightedness greater than –8 diopters, Lasik can be performed if one's pupil is small enough (less than 8 mm) and if the cornea is thick enough. Future options include lens implants in the eye. Other new techniques are also under study.

In the Philippines, which as a Third World country is often late in getting access to new devices, the Asian Eye Institute (AEI) offers the newest and best diagnostic and surgical facilities for eye patients.

Located on the 9th and 10th levels of Phinma Plaza, 39 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati, AEI provides a comprehensive list of services to address the eye care and treatment needs of patients. It is open 9 a.m.-6 p.m., from Monday to Saturday.

Inaugurated on Sept. 18, the 800-sq m AEI was designed by Rothman Partners Inc. of Boston and Palafox Associates of Manila. It has 14 examination rooms, four operating rooms for outpatient surgeries, two refraction rooms, a laminar flow air-handling unit on the surgical floor, diagnostic center, sterilization area, laser center, refractive and Lasik surgery suite, recovery room, a play area for kids, comfortable waiting lounges and fully computerized medical records, imaging and appointment scheduling system with telemedicine capability to speed up consultation. It also conducts education and research activities.

AEI's services include treatment and management of common eye problems, glaucoma, retina and vitreous diseases like macular degeneration and disorders caused by diabetes, pediatric eye diseases, cornea and refractive surgery, ophthalmic plastic surgery, low vision and visual rehabilitation and anesthetics.

"From the simple error of refraction or myopia to complicated eye conditions like glaucoma can be treated at AEI," says Dr. Amadeo Veloso Jr., who specializes in retina and vitreous surgery, diabetic retinopathy and macular degeneration.

Dr. Veloso says those who usually undergo Lasik surgery suffer from astigmatism, myopia and far-sightedness. The procedure takes 5-10 minutes per eye. "It's painless at the time of the surgery, though the eyes may hurt in the following 24-48 hours. If so, painkillers are prescribed."

It takes about three months for the eyes to heal completely and for vision to stabilize. After the surgery, there's a 50-60 percent chance of acquiring 20/20 vision and an 80-90 percent chance of 6/12 vision, enough to allow one to play most sports and to drive in the daytime without glasses.

World-class

AEI was founded by Oscar Lopez and Dr. Felipe Tolentino. For 10 years, Lopez, chair and CEO of the Lopez Group of Companies, had been traveling to Boston for the treatment of his glaucoma. On one of those trips he met Dr. Tolentino, a world-renowned ophthalmologist. After undergoing eight operations in a decade, Lopez realized the need for quality eye care in the Philippines. With Dr. Tolentino, he put up a cataract surgical clinic on wheels in 1996, which helped more than 3,000 indigent patients. The two thought of establishing AEI, with the support of business and government leaders, in 1999.

"AEI bids to make high-quality eye care available and accessible to all Filipinos. In fact, one of the mandates of the institute's social investors is to give 15 percent of its earnings to charity, research and education. Our mission is to upgrade the standard of eye care. Hopefully, others will follow suit," Dr. Tolentino says.

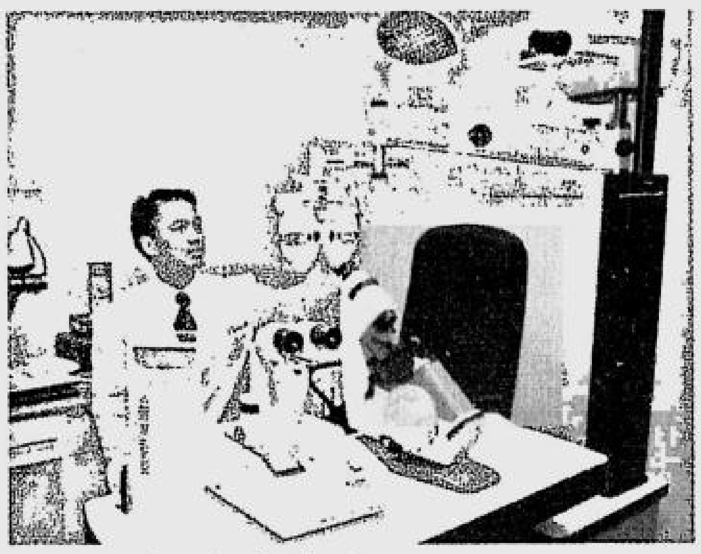
The first of its kind eye laser and surgical center in the country, AEI's laminar flow air-handling unit ensures the most sterile operating room environment to prevent bacterial contamination during surgery.

Another unique feature of the institute is its low vision room, which displays lenses, magnifiers and telescopic devices that help enhance the vision of patients with severe glaucoma. "Coping with the debilitating effects of one's loss of vision can be emotional and psychological torture...with the aid of (certain) devices, we can help a patient maximize the use of his residual vision and gain some level of independence. It aims to help one become more aware of his remaining visual capabilities and use it to achieve a personally satisfying lifestyle," says Dr. Jesse Caguioa, one of two low vision specialists in the country and AEI's chief optometrist and diagnostic section head.

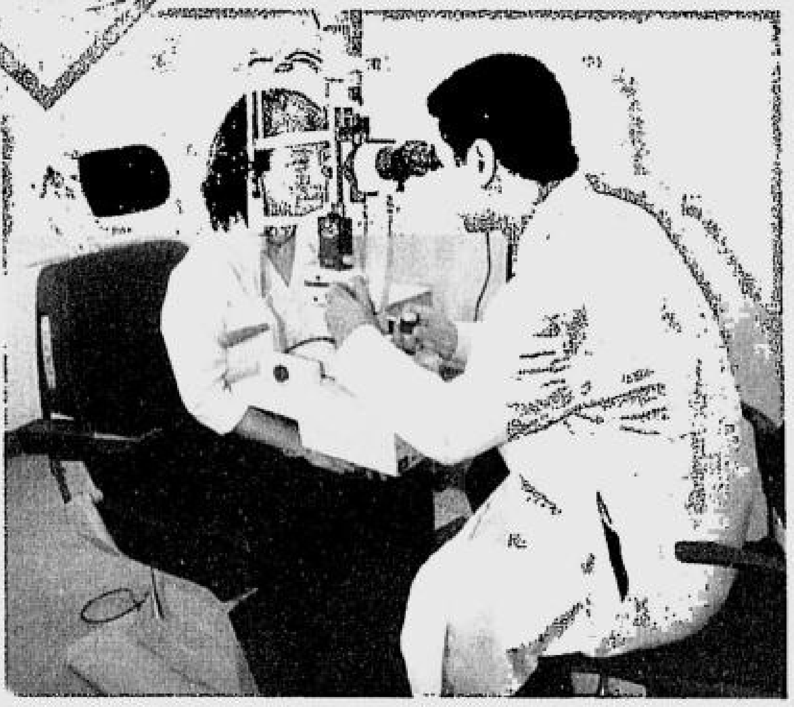
"Through such world-class facilities, the institute has given me the best opportunity to study what I'd been specifically trained for. And I'm assured that my patients will be given the best integrated care here," Dr. Annabelle Ching-Costa, who specializes in glaucoma, says.

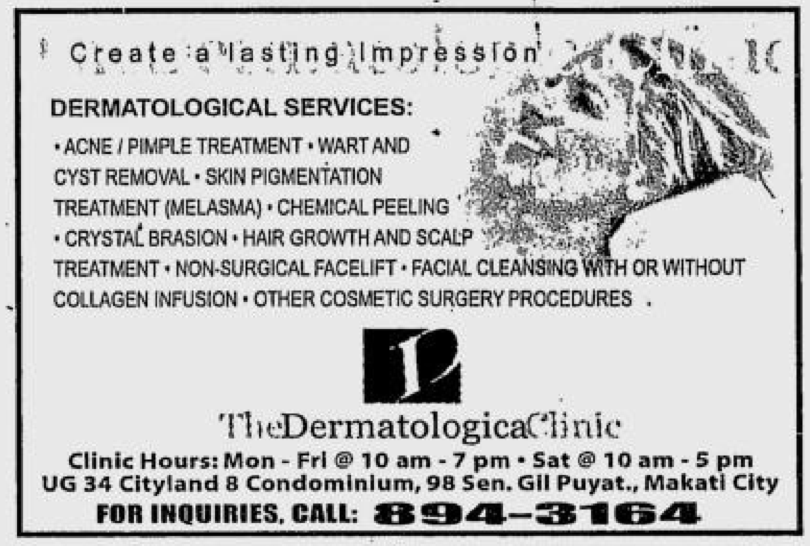
With AEI's diagnostic and therapeutic equipment imported from the US, Switzerland, Germany

NEW/ p. C3


DR. Jesse Caguioa in the low vision room

The Asian Eye Institute provides specialized medical services for a wide range of diseases and visual disorders. Dedicated to quality patient care, it aims to advance ophthalmology in the Philippines and Asia


DR. Amadeo Veloso examines a patient in the exam room.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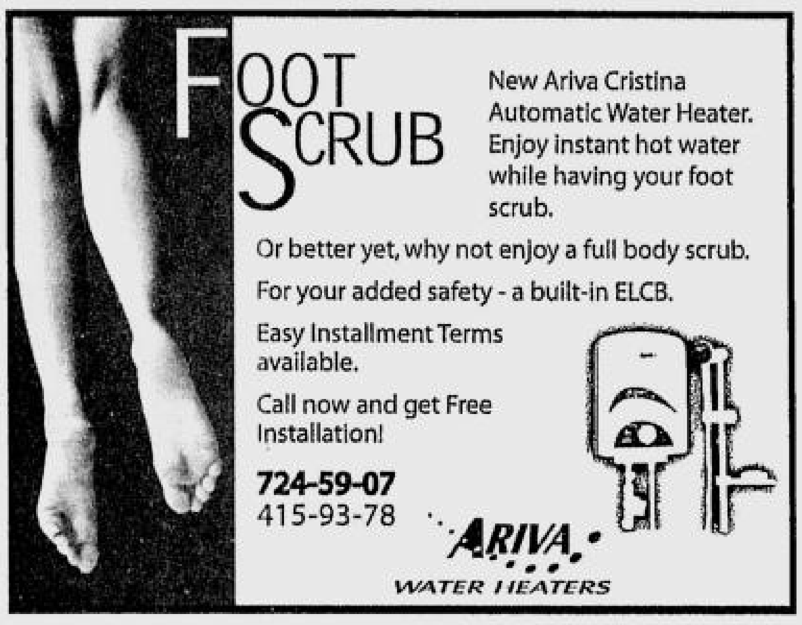
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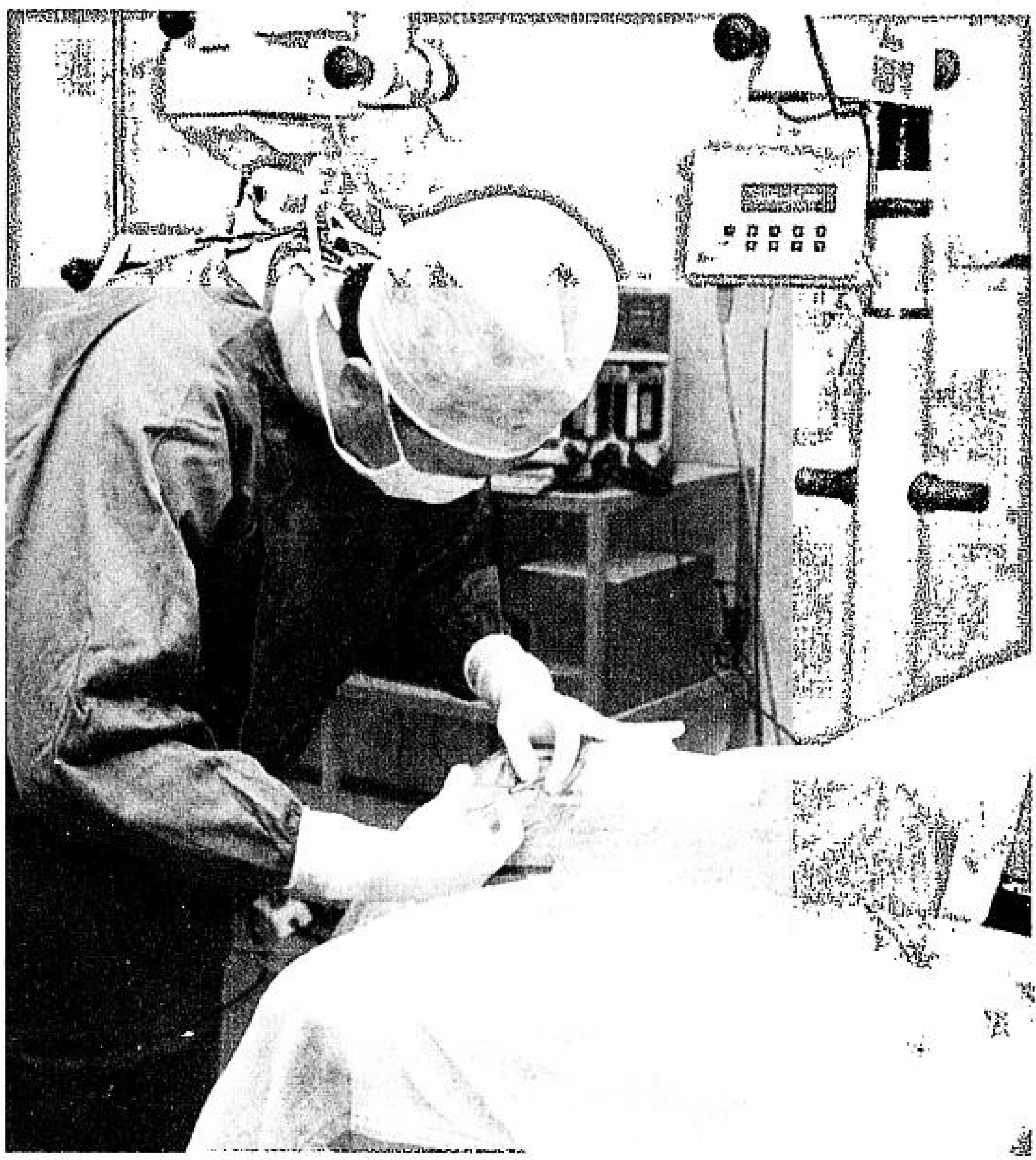

PREPARING for the cataract operation.

CLEANING the eye

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HOLDING one eye open for the cataract operation

PENETRATING a small opening in the cataract operation

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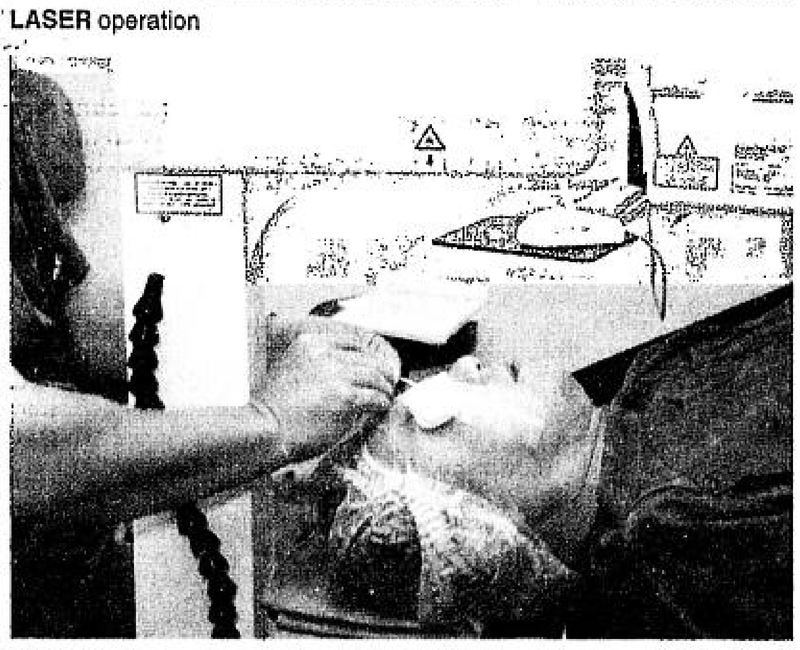
BY CORA LLAMAS
PHOTOS BY ROGER CARPIO

LASER surgery—the refractive kind which restores blurry eyesight to 20/20 vision—takes only half an hour. The outpatient preparation, though, can take three days. Or in cases like mine (which are all too rare, I was told) where abnormally dry tear glands or an unexpected sty can create risks, the pre-operation treatment can take weeks.

To be honest, the preparation proved to be a strain on my workaholic lifestyle. Putting in a couple of eyedrops three to four times a day for weeks threw my calculated by-the-minute schedule out of sync. That small but time-consuming chore can freeze the rush of adrenalin that comes with my daily deadline-beating computer pounding.

LASER operation



PATCHING the operated eye

But the pluses outweighed these small inconveniences. First, by eliminating or reducing significantly visual deficiencies like near-sightedness, far-sightedness and astigmatism, laser surgery can remove the need for eyeglasses and contact lenses. A veteran wearer of eyeglasses since childhood, I'm half-blind without my specs. Without them, I can't make out the words on a billboard 10 ft away or see if the taxi I'm hailing is empty or not. The astigmatism also frays the edges of distant objects, making their colors bleed.

Second, the type of surgeries provided by the American Eye Center, a diagnostic and therapeutic facility located at the fifth floor of the Edsa Shangri-La Plaza Mall, are fast and convenient. Aside from the refractive, it also performs operations for cataracts, the leading cause of blindness in adults 55-years-old and more. Dr. Cesar Espiritu, sub-specialist for cornea and external diseases, compares the new procedure to the old-style cut-and-sew kind. "Until recently, surgery made a large wound that had to be sutured. Healing took a month and a half, recovery of vision was also longer. Now, the patient can go home immediately and begin to enjoy his new clear sight after three or four hours."

In both laser and cataract surgeries, the patient is totally awake and under anesthesia. The simple, seemingly effortless, half-hour process helps alleviate his jitters about the messy side of hospitals, operations and eye trauma possibilities.

Finally, coming from someone who instinctively feared eye doctors and would take a dental drill over an eyedrop any time, the center's state-of-the-art facilities, complemented by the staff's careful dedication to precision, promised that I was in safe hands. Since its opening in 1995, the center has treated 15,000 patients who are now enjoying clear vision. Getting a second diagnosis is also quicker and easier, given its nine doctors, each with different sub-specialties: anterior segment (front of the eye), refractive surgery, cornea, glaucoma, retina, infectious diseases, neuro-ophthalmology (nerves), and ocular plastic surgery (tearing/eyelid problems).

Blame it on genes

The pre-operation screening provides a fair assessment of one's visual status. You peer into microscope-like equipment and stare at a small light or an image of a farmhouse in the middle of a field. Meanwhile, the nearby computers record and photograph every detail in your eyes: the grade, clarity of vision, contours, topography and pressure. I had to go through this procedure every time that I was assessed for readiness for the laser surgery.

This meticulous checking is based on one important but little-known truth: as far as near-sightedness and far-sightedness are concerned, the grade of one's eyes is a matter of his eyeballs, not bad reading or TV habits. Genes—not the careless binge of books, computer games or videos—determine whether one will wear glasses or not. Pending refractive surgery, that made the specs inevitable and lifelong.

"The grade of the eye is determined by the size of the eye, or how long your eyeball is from front to back. Ideally for a person to see clearly, the image or focal point passes through the cornea and lands on the retina. If the eyeball is long as in a near-sighted person's, then the focal point goes in front of the retina, spreading out the light rays on a wide area. The image is not clear," Arroyo explains. "In contrast, a person who is far-sighted has a sharp eyeball. The focal point goes beyond the eye."

To restore clear vision, glasses and contact

CLEAR/ p.C4

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FAQs (frequently asked questions)

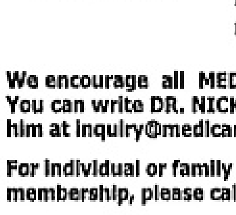
What are Medical Coordinators? Do we have to go through them to avail of MEDICard's services?

Yes, to avail of your needed medical services, members must go or pass through the clinic of the **MEDICard Medical Coordinator** in every accredited hospital. The Medical Coordinator or the Primary Physician is a medical doctor delegated by MEDICard to address and *"coordinate"* the health requirements of its members. He is responsible for the issuance of referrals, when a member needs to see a specialist, the issuance of laboratory request forms, to undergo a laboratory exam and issuance of admitting orders when a member needs to be confined. He is the "nerve center" of all MEDICard services in an accredited hospital, from outpatient care to hospital confinement.

Meet your MEDICard Team

In need of an OB-Gynecologist? Then drop by the Medical City General Hospital and look for **Dr. Maria Fe M. Manalang-Vital**. Dr. Vital has been an accredited MEDICard service provider since 1998 and has been in practice of the profession for over 12 years. She is a graduate of Medicine from UST and chose to specialize in Obstetrics & Gynecology at the Medical City. She later pursued further studies subspecializing in OB-Gyne Ultrasound at the Manila Central University Hospital. She is a Fellow to the Philippine Obstetricians-Gynecologists Society and the Philippine College of Surgeons. Doc Maria is a loving mother to three wonderful children and spends most of her free time with her family. Visit her for your consultation needs at the Medico Bldg., Suite 402 from Mondays to Fridays, 3 to 5 PM and on Saturdays from 2 to 4 PM and at Suite 415 every Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 AM to 1 PM.

Over 20 years of clinical practice made **Dr. Jane Grace O. Anni** one of MEDICard's most prized doctors at the University of Perpetual Help Medical Center in Las Piñas City. Dr. Anni graduated Doctor of Medicine from UST and specializes in General Pediatrics, where she received her residency training in Pennsylvania, USA. She is a proud member of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Philippine Medical Association and the Las Piñas Medical Society. Doc Jane is fond of playing the piano and traveling. Visit her at Rm. 511 for your consultation needs. Drop by every Mondays to Saturdays from 1 to 6 PM.



Dr. Restita Moncayo-Buenaobra is MEDICard's accredited service provider at the Daniel O. Mercado General Hospital, Batangas. After earning her degree in Medicine at the Perpetual Help College in Biñan, Laguna, Doc Tita, as fondly called by her patients, chose to specialize in Family Medicine at the Ospital ng Maynila. She is a recent addition to MEDICard's list of accredited providers and has been in practice of the profession for over 9 years now. Dr. Buenaobra is married to businessman, Mr. Januario D. Buenaobra to whom she has 3 children. This doctor is a lover of tennis and swimming and spends her free time enjoying the sport. For your consultation needs, visit Dr. Buenaobra from Mondays to Fridays, 9 AM to 12 noon.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com.

For individual or family membership inquiries, please call 818-2161 and look for Ms. Joy Mendiola. For group or corporate membership, please call 817-5136, 817-4985 or 817-5127 and look for a membership consultant.

TEXT MEDICard for your queries: 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. *Log on to www.medicardphils.com*

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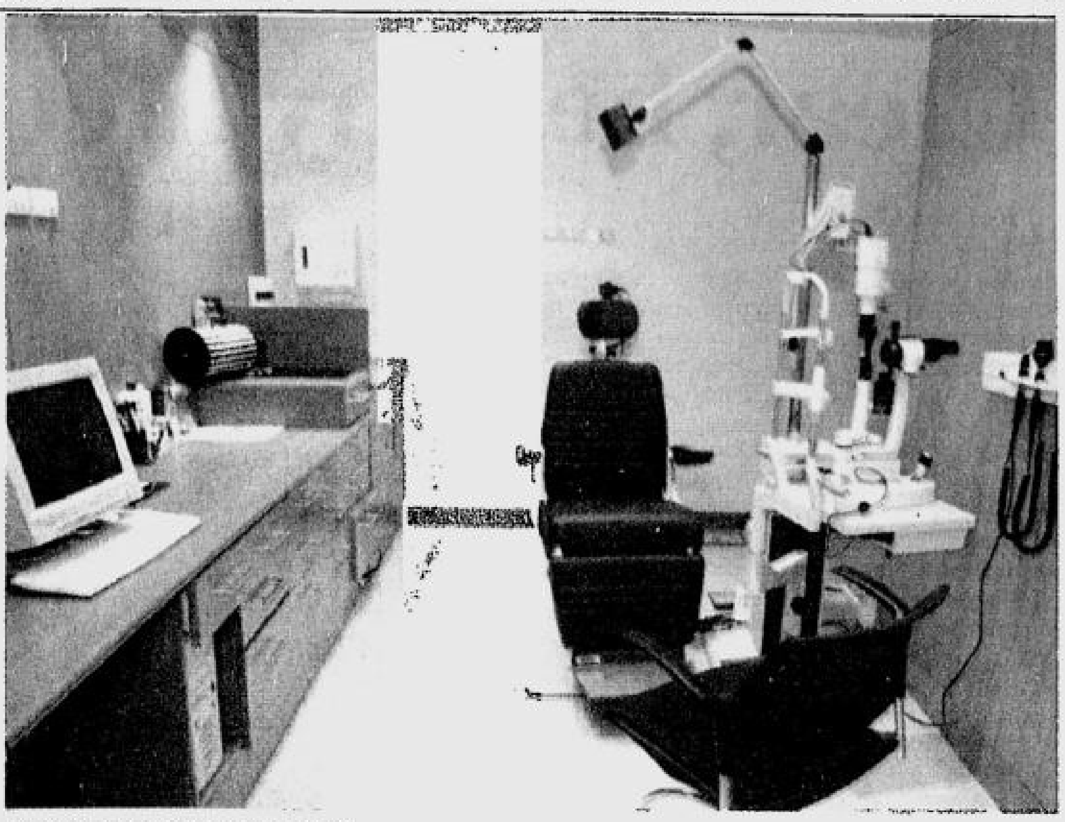
AEI'S medical team: From left, Dr. Amadeo Veloso, Dr. Heidi Remulla, Dr. Annabelle Ching-Costa, Dr. Felipe Tolentino, Dr. Ma. Imelda Yap-Veloso and Dr. Jesse Caguioa



THE PEDIATRIC exam room

New procedures may make eyeglasses museum pieces

(From page C1)

and Japan, Dr. Ma. Imelda Yap-Veloso, who also specializes in glaucoma, does not need to refer her patients to hospitals abroad. "It's easier to send patients to AEI's other specialists because you know that they'll be in good hands. Indeed, it's an advantage to work with those who underwent the same training as you did. You sort of know how they work and think."

Medical team

Dr. Tolentino, medical director, heads AEI's Filipino ophthalmologists who were mostly trained at Harvard Medical School. The staff includes Robert Edward Ang, who specializes in cornea and refractive surgery and glaucoma; Edgar Leuenberger, glaucoma; Heidi Domingo-Remulla, oculoplastic and orbit disease; Harvey Uy, uveitis and ocular immunology, retina and vitreous disease; Pik Sha Chan-Uy, pediatric ophthalmology and adult strabismus, retina and vitreous disease; and Mary Jocelyn Ang, general and pediatric anesthesiology.

To keep our vision from getting worse, Dr. Yap-Veloso suggests an eye examination every three to five years for those under age 40, who are healthy with no eye problems or family history of eye problems. For those over 40, exams are indicated every two to three years; over 60, every one to two years. "There are also pearls to consider: eat a healthy diet, don't smoke, wear eye protection if at risk of being struck in the eye," she adds.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

DR. Michella Chua in the refraction room

THE OPERATING room

PLAY area for children

San Juan de Dios Hospital's oncology unit inaugurated

THE SAN Juan de Dios Hospital recently inaugurated its oncology unit located on the third floor of the main building. The oncology unit is open to all pediatric, adolescent, adult and geriatric patients who have to undergo chemotherapy, blood therapy or pain management. The unit also provides specialized nursing care for cancer patients. Many chemotherapy protocols may be given in an outpatient basis. The oncology unit is open on Monday and Wednesday, 1-5 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday, 2-5 p.m.; and on Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Call 831-9731, local 3336.

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Clear, healthy lifetime vision in 20 minutes

(From page C2)

lenses push the image to land on the retina. Laser surgery makes this remedy permanent by changing the contour of the cornea itself. The cornea's apex of a near-sighted person is flattened, while that of a far-sighted patient is steepened. The image then starts landing on the retina and 20/20 vision occurs.

The computerized screening is double-checked by a physician in one of the exam rooms. To determine grade of vision, he lets you read letters from 5 ft away while reducing their size. To my surprise, it turned out that I'd been wearing the wrong lenses for a couple of years: my old optometrist's eyeglasses gave me grades of 200 for the left eye and 175 for the right. All the center's tests showed a mere 50 for the right and 125 with 175 astigmatism for the left. Given my right eye's low grade, only my left eye needed laser surgery.

Eyedrops are prescribed three days before the actual operation. Contact lenses should not be worn for at least four to eight weeks, depending on their hardness. During the day of the operation, don't wear eye makeup, perfume or cologne. By the way, these advisories should be followed to the letter, or you risk losing your eyes to infection.

The operation was quick, roughly taking 10 minutes. With my good right eye covered, my left eye valiantly focused on the blinking red light above. This puts your eye into the precise position for the administration of the laser treatment. As the doctor cleaned this eye, I could feel the water creeping in and my vision blurring. As the operation progressed, I became witness to the space dance of a mini-galaxy (I kid you not) as bluish nebulae swirled around a blackening canvas. There were also a few flashes of star-like images.

The sideshow was a welcome distraction to the discomfort. Anesthesia and disclaimers aside, there was some. For a few moments, it felt like I was being fitted with a very hard of contact lens. I remember growling at Dr. Arroyo: "You said it wouldn't hurt!" His smooth, calm, in-control voice and subtle sense of humor went a long way in dispelling my tension. And, thankfully, the zone of discomfort quickly passed. Later, Dr. Alnette Tan opined that the small size of my eye ("*chinita*") could have been one reason for the irritation.

Post-op

The operated eye is patched for another 15-20 minutes. Then the doctor examines it again before releasing you. Better have a friend or family member drive you home. A transparent shield practically closes the treated eye for the remainder of the day. Profuse tearing, itchiness and irritation can occur. You have a hard time keeping the treated eye open, let alone driving or looking for a cab. On the way home, I made the mistake of sitting beside the driver. The glare of the neon street lights made me wince and forced me to keep my eyes closed throughout. Back home two hours after the operation, I was practically useless. No books, no TV, no computer, no option possible, except straight to bed.

DR. Cesar Espiritu, cataract sub-specialist

DR. Jack Arroyo, American Eye Center president

But at 4 a.m., I was up and bouncing. The itchiness had gone. I eagerly turned on my computer to catch up on needed work. That was a mistake. By late afternoon, my eye felt tired and it became difficult to even glance at the monitor. According to Dr. Richard Kho, while a patient can immediately go back to ordinary life after the operation, a little caution is called for. *Lamay*, late nights and hours of computer-related work will naturally strain the treated eye.

A lot more of these preventive dos and don'ts are handed out after the surgery: Two sets of eyedrops for a week. No strenuous exercise. No swimming for a month. Don't rub your operated eye(s) for seven days.

During the first post-surgery week, it's a must for the patient to see the doctor three times. If there's a chance that infection will occur, it will happen during the critical seven days. The center claims there's only a .01 percent probability, and possibly only if you don't follow the advisories. The laser refractive surgery costs roughly P25,000 per eye, and cataract surgery P38,000 per eye. According to Arroyo, this is cheap. Overseas treatment costs $2,500 per eye for cataracts.

One of the reasons the American Eye Center was founded was to make high-tech eye care and surgery more accessible. Many hospitals, says Arroyo, have other priorities.

"Generally, among the hospitals in Metro Manila, ophthalmology gets low priority in terms of equipment. Because it does not make as much money as obstetrics or open heart surgery, which cost P1-P2 million per operation. The professional manager of the hospital would want to put the funds in good profit centers."

That means that eye sub-specialists "can't treat a patient properly because they don't have the equipment. The center funneled our investments into the eye. And what we have is exactly the same kind of center that you'd see in the US. Yet our rates are very competitive; we don't charge much. How can the patient lose?"

One last thing, though. Undergoing laser surgery doesn't mean that glasses are gone forever. Remember: all it did was give a patient normal clear 20/20 vision—and normal people start to lose their focus for near objects by the time they reach 40. Although there are exceptions, says Dr. Kho, the fortysomethings and above discover the need for reading glasses to see at short proximity. It's a normal human condition, and one that state-of-the-art medicine doesn't have a remedy for yet. Well, all that means for me is a new pair of specs in five years' time. Meanwhile, I don't have to squint to read a title on a theater marquee, or feel my way around town using my memory when my glasses fog up or get broken. I've also begun to notice objects and buildings from a distance that I was never aware of before. Sight has become sharper and colors and shapes more distinct than usual. It's like my vision has been reborn.

(The American Eye Center can be contacted at 636-0762 or info@eyecenter.com.ph. More info can be found at www.eyecenter.com.ph or www.ladarvision.com.)

Flavored oxygen that helps remove stress

DERMCLINIC recently launched oxygen therapy, one of the latest alternatives for health buffs.

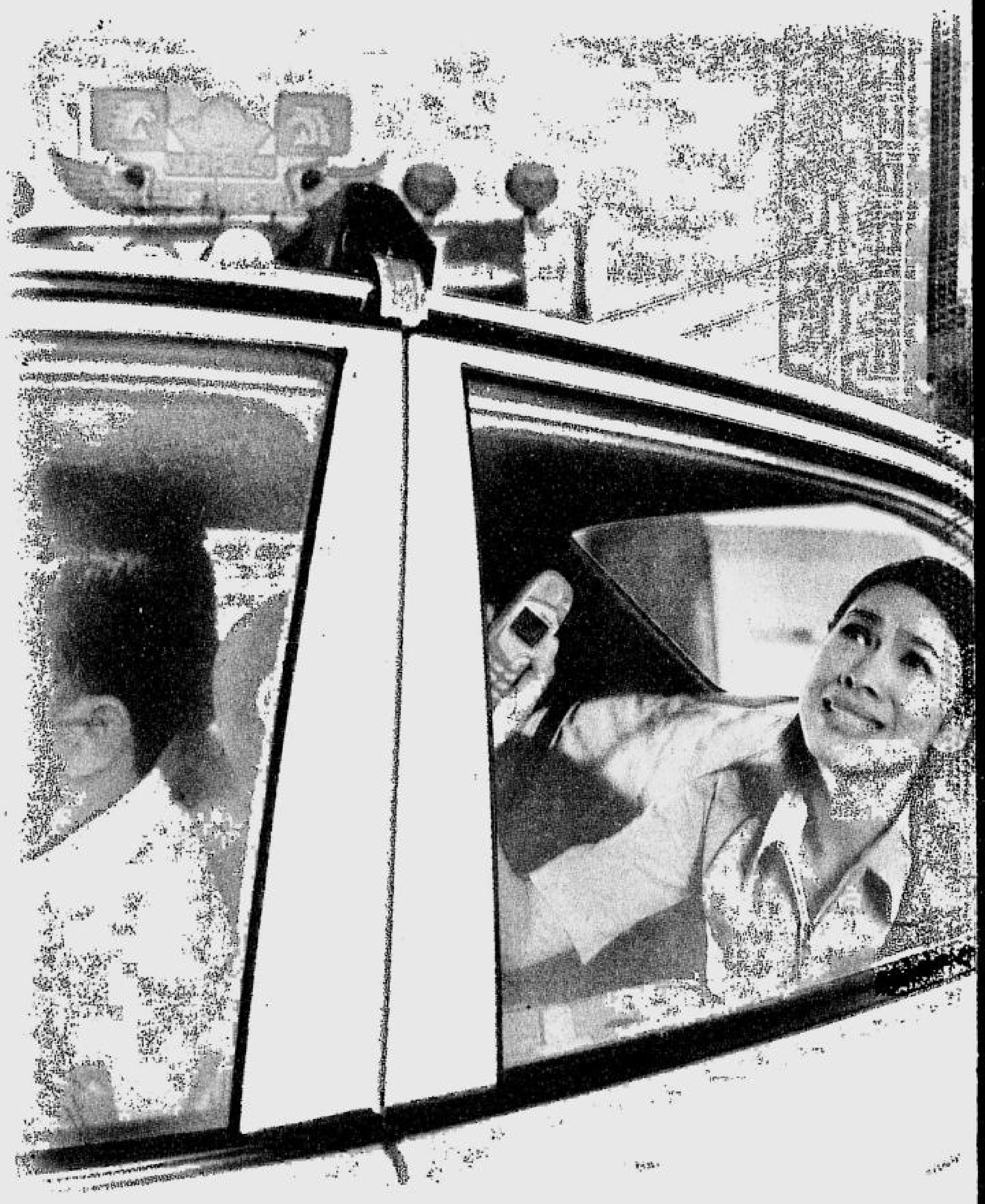
Starting out as the main staple of popular Oxygen Bars in Reno, Nevada and Southern California, oxygen therapy has become a hit not only in the United States, but in Europe and other Asian countries as well. Testimonials on the treatment prove that the therapy can de-stress and revitalize instantly. Many also swear that it aids migraines and helps them lose weight.

At Dermclinic, oxygen therapy calms and de-stresses the individual while getting the benefits of a dermatological-tested basic facial. Dermclinic has trained its consultants and medical staff in the accurate procedures of performing the treatment, using only top-quality oxygen-safe, non-oil-based aromas. All 20 Dermclinic branches are equipped with the latest technology in oxygen therapy.

During the treatment, customers can breathe pure oxygen "flavored" with different aromatic essences. Using a plastic exonerator or "nose hose" that's plugged into an aromatic infuser, the patient inhales the "flavored" oxygen through the nose and exhales through the mouth. The different aromas remove stress while providing a naturally revitalized feeling.

The Dermclinic oxygen therapy offers an aroma menu. Each aroma or "flavor" provides various benefits: Nirvana—lavender, balsam and fir needles (soothes and relieves stress and tension); Clarity—eucalyptus and gingko (purifying, invigorating, clarifying); Sublime—lime juice concentrate (equalizing, refreshing, cheering); Synergy—wintergreen, spearmint, peppermint (cheering, calming, relaxing); Revitalize—lemon, rosemary, peppermint, sweet basil (uplifting, strengthening, warming); Eclipse—peppermint (sensual, euphoric, exotic); and Lemongrass—lemongrass extract (vitalizing, cleansing).

"Just one phone call please



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Exclusively for : SMART

World Heart Day promotes healthy lifestyle

THE WORLD Heart Federation says that women are eight times as likely to die from heart disease and stroke as breast cancer and ovarian cancer combined. World Heart Federation held its second World Heart Day last Sept. 30 to raise women's awareness of the risk of heart disease and stroke to encourage measures for their prevention.

This year's World Heart Day promoted the prevention of heart disease and stroke through maintenance of a healthy lifestyle. Both men and women can reduce their risk of cardiovascular disease through smoke-free living, healthy nutrition (limited animal fat and low cholesterol), checking blood pressure levels, checking for diabetes and exercise.

Women are greatly affected by CVD around the world, but the amount of their knowledge is not the same in low- and middle-income countries. "Women in India, China, Africa and most of the Latin American countries have very little access to information and health care to be able to sufficiently detect cardiovascular symptoms," says Prof. Mario Manrahao, president of the World Heart Federation. "We are therefore urgently promoting better awareness and prevention of heart disease and stroke." He added that in order to achieve this mission, the World Heart Federation supports a worldwide network of cardiologists, facilitates the dissemination of cardiovascular health information for worldwide members and health professionals and also develops and supports activities geared toward a healthy lifestyle.

World statistics indicated in the 2000 Victoria Declaration on women that out of the 2.2 million middle-aged women (30-69 years old) worldwide who died of heart disease and stroke, over 22 percent of them were Indian, 20 percent were Chinese and almost 6 percent were Latin American. Of the remaining women, 10 percent of whom were from Western Europe and America, 10 percent from other Asian countries, 9 percent from the Middle East, 9 percent from Sub-Sabharan Africa and 7 percent from Eastern Europe.

Cigarette smoking, high blood pressure, unhealthy diet, low physical activity, diabetes and obesity are common risk factors of CVD. Second-hand smoke is a ubiquitous problem as people from many cultures and countries are exposed to it. The World Health Organization Tobacco Free Initiative states that nonsmokers who breathe second-hand smoke have a higher risk of heart disease and stroke than smokers. This is a major problem in some developing countries where the smoking rates are extremely high and women can be exposed to second-hand smoke at home and at work. The British Medical Journal reports that women in the Xi'an province in China have a 24 percent increased incidence of CVD if their husbands are smokers and an 85 percent increased incidence if they were exposed to passive smoke at work.

Psychic healer predicts total New York destruction

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

EDGAR Cayce can certainly be called the modern Nostradamus. He was an outstanding psychic, prophet and healer.

Born in a Kentucky farm in March 1877, Cayce left some 14,500 psychic readings covering a wide variety of topics when he died in 1945. He was also a visionary, predicting such things as laser beams, the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Wall Street crash of 1929 and the earthquakes, hurricanes and tidal waves that struck California, Japan and the Philippines, respectively, in 1926.

He predicted the start of World War III around the year 1999 and the end of civilization as we know it shortly after 2000 A.D. He saw the end of the world in a dream or vision in which he was reborn (Cayce believed in reincarnation) in the year 2100 in Nebraska. In the vision, he flew over a desolate United States in a strange-looking metallic aircraft. He foresaw the total destruction of Los Angeles and San Francisco, along with much of the western part of the US. He shares the same view as Nostradamus, who foresaw the final war between East and West.

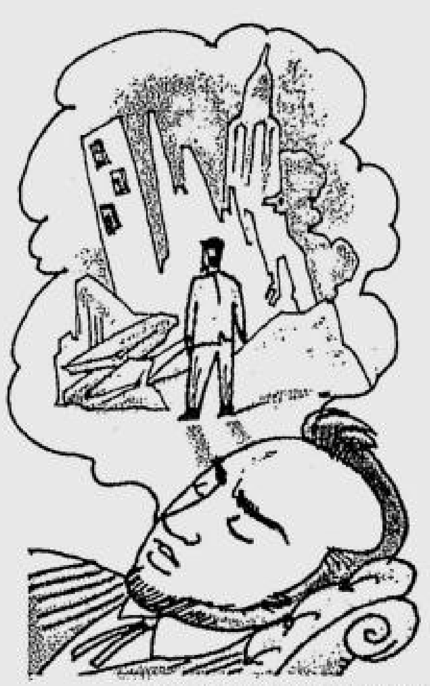
The following is a more detailed description of Edgar Cayce's prophetic and chilling vision as written by Angus Hall and Francis King in the book "Mysteries of Prediction," published by Aldus Books, London in 1975.

"Edgar Cayce, one of the best known seers and faith healers of the 20th century, had a cosmic vision in 1936. In that vision, he was reborn in the year 2100 with the knowledge that he had been Edgar Cayce from 1877-1945. With scientists who were investigating his story, he flew across North America in an odd-shaped aircraft at fantastic speed. They landed among the ruins of a huge city, which was in the process of being rebuilt and asked what the name of it was. 'New York City,' came the startling reply.

"Along with the vision of a devastated New York, Cayce foresaw violent changes in all of the United States and the world. Nebraska had become the west coast after earthquakes had shattered the rest of the west—including Los Angeles and San Francisco, and Alabama was partly under water. Most of Japan, too, was submerged and northern Europe had been completely altered by chaotic upheavals. During the cataclysmic changes, new lands had appeared from beneath both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

"With this vision, Cayce joined the other prophets who have foretold of vast destruction throughout the world around the year 2000."

"The Bible Code," according to Michael Drosnin, contains the secret prediction that World War III will begin either in the year 2000 or 2006, because those two dates came out together with World War III.



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CITIBANK

Biothics training and conference set

ETHICS reviewers, researchers, NGOs and community representatives, advocates, donors/funding agencies, heads of research institutions and research policymakers are invited to participate in the "International Training on Bioethics" from Oct. 22-25, and the second "Pacific Bioethics Conference" from Oct. 26-28 at the Angelo King Int'l Center, Manila.

These activities are organized by the Philippine Health Social Science Association, Forum for Ethics Review Committees in the Asia-Pacific Region and the Reproductive Health, Rights and Ethics Center for Studies and Training.

There are many urgent issues related to health research, especially those that pertain to the use of human subjects in clinical studies. These events are expected to strengthen the ethics review process for research in our training hospitals and protect the rights of patients. The "Bioethics Training" involves an intensive exposure to current bioethics issues and principles, while the "Bioethics Conference" is expected to create public awareness and mobilize public support to enjoin our government to seriously monitor and regulate research in the interest of public safety.

Highly respected local and international faculty for the training and speakers for the conference have been assembled to provide the highest quality of instruction and discussion of bioethics issues. These events are endorsed by the Department of Health and supported by the World Health Organization, Association of Philippine Medical Colleges and Forum of Ethics Review Committee for the Asia-Pacific, as well as groups and institutions that are advocating for the improvement of ethics review in the region.

There will be substantial discounts for early registration. Call the Conference Secretariat at 521-6692, telefax 523-9392, e-mail phssa@mydestiny.net or log on to www.phssa.org.

PSG spearheads info campaign on hepa B

HEPATITIS B is a blood-borne virus that afflicts millions of people the world over.

According to the World Health Organization, about 2 million people die from the hepatitis B virus each year, making it one of the top 10 most dreaded diseases in the world. There are 350 million carriers of the disease in the world, yet most of them don't even know they have it.

Once inside the body, the virus targets the liver. Hepatitis B could lead to cirrhosis or hardening of the liver, and in some cases, cancer, and eventually death.

If diagnosed early, hepatitis B can be treated to prevent its potentially fatal outcomes. New medicines, such as an antiviral treatment, are available to help stop the virus from spreading and stop liver damage from progressing.

Although hepatitis B is a potentially fatal disease, it is very much preventable. Vaccines are available to provide long-lasting protection from hepatitis B infection.

Aside from screening and vaccination, another defense against hepatitis B is proper information.

With the dissemination of more information on hepatitis B, people have become better equipped in dealing with the virus. Victims have learned to cope with it and would-be victims have learned to take precautions in order to prevent it.

Medical experts agree that forewarned is forearmed. And arming oneself with enough information about hepatitis B is one of the best ways of lessening the extreme effects of the virus.

This is why the Philippine Society of Gastroenterology, a society of doctors who specialize in diseases of the gastrointestinal system (including the liver) and the HOPE for Hepatitis B Sufferers Program, a public service program of GlaxoSmithKline, have joined forces in staging the International Hepatitis B Action Week until Oct. 21.

The week-long program will feature lectures by experts and will be held in several hospitals nationwide. Free hepatitis B screening sessions for the first 100 people per venue will also be made available in the participating hospitals.

The program is open to the public. Call the HOPE for Hepatitis B Sufferers hotline at 815-0296 (Metro Manila) or toll free 1800-1888-5673 (outside Metro Manila). The HOPE hotline is open from Mondays through Fridays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

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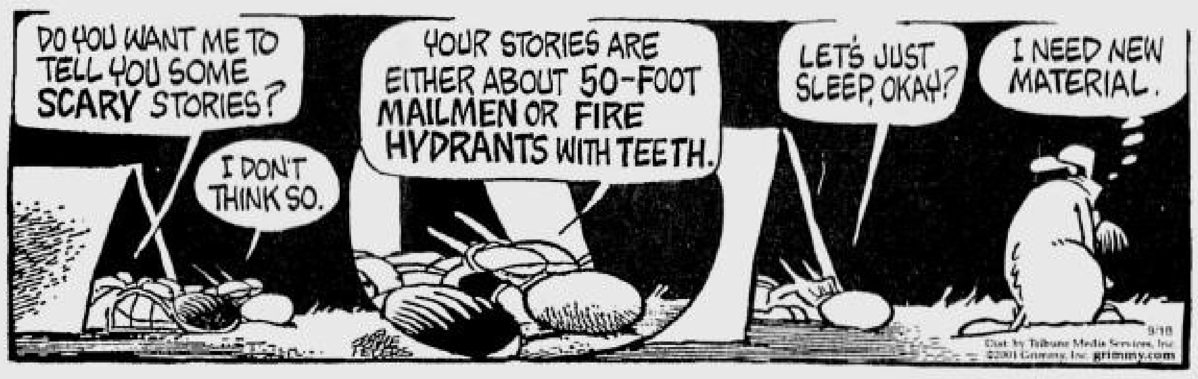
BY MIKE PETERS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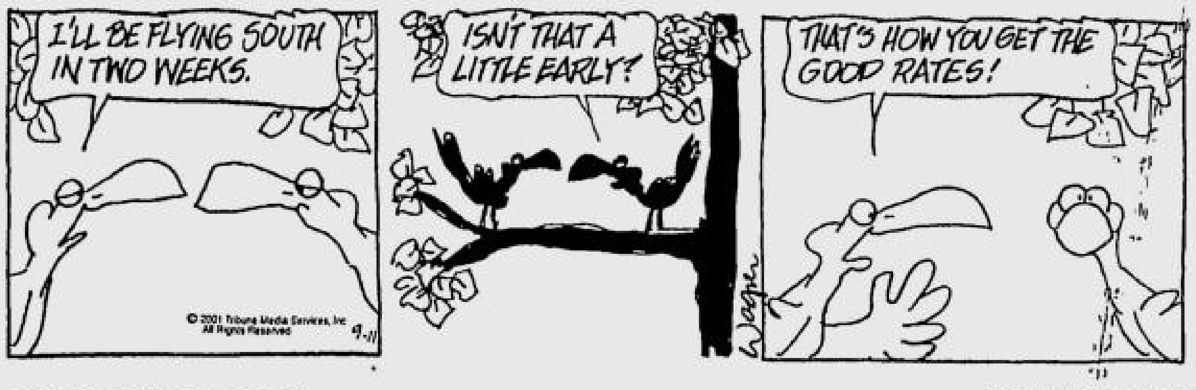
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


I'LL BE FLYING SOUTH IN TWO WEEKS.
ISN'T THAT A LITTLE EARLY?
THAT'S HOW YOU GET THE GOOD RATES!
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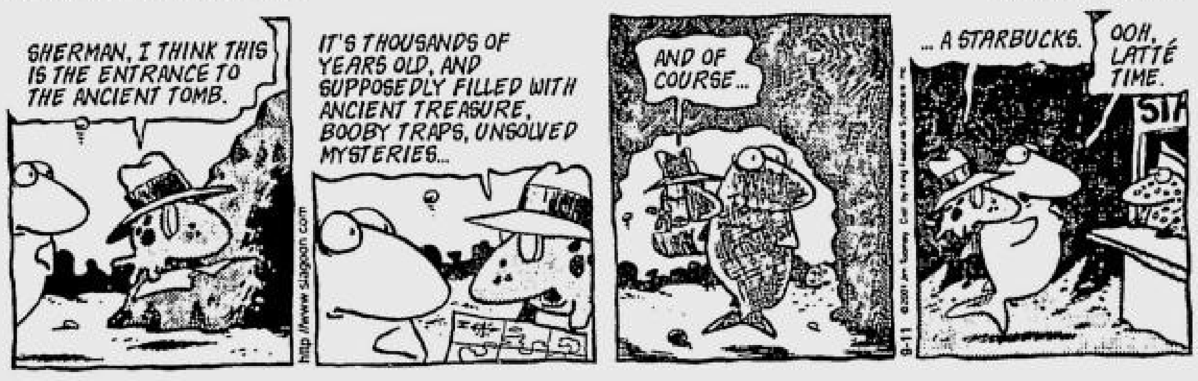
9-11
Wagner

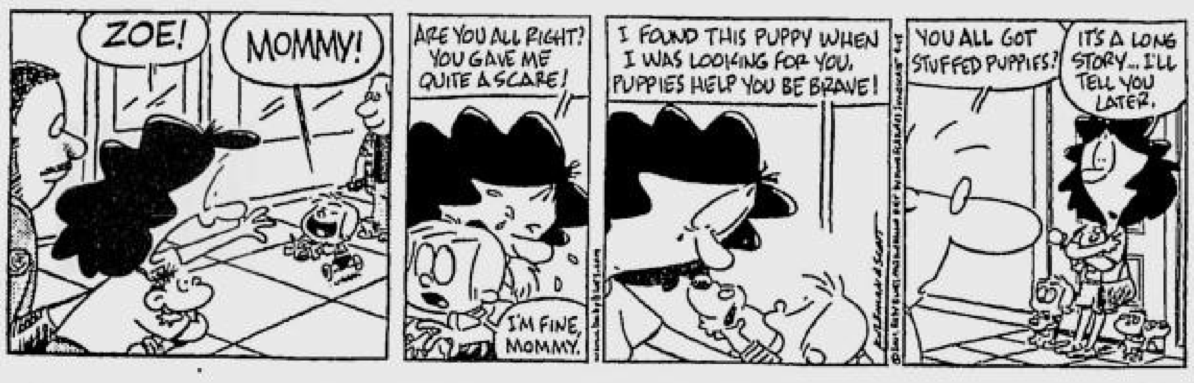
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


SHERMAN, I THINK THIS IS THE ENTRANCE TO THE ANCIENT TOMB.
IT'S THOUSANDS OF YEARS OLD, AND SUPPOSEDLY FILLED WITH ANCIENT TREASURE, BOOBY TRAPS, UNSOLVED MYSTERIES...
AND OF COURSE...
... A STARBUCKS.
OOH, LATTÉ TIME.
http://www.slagoon.com
9-11

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


ZOE!
MOMMY!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? YOU GAVE ME QUITE A SCARE!
I'M FINE, MOMMY.
I FOUND THIS PUPPY WHEN I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU. PUPPIES HELP YOU BE BRAVE!
YOU ALL GOT STUFFED PUPPIES?
IT'S A LONG STORY... I'LL TELL YOU LATER.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Angela Lansbury, Tim Robbins, Suzanne Somers, Kellie Martin, Tim McCarver

Happy Birthday: Your drive and determination will outmaneuver any competition you face, but don't lose sight of personal obligations to loved ones. If you set your sights high and take on too much, you may find it difficult to accomplish everything. It's better to focus and do a magnificent job instead of spreading yourself thin and falling short. Your numbers: 9, 13, 22, 24, 35, 49

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Get out socially with friends to discover a vast amount of interesting information. You will meet someone special if you attend cultural events. Don't be too quick to tell your life story.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Put your efforts where you'll get the best results. You can make a difference at work by helping put some flair into a colleague's work. Your suggestions at home will not be as readily received.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Go out shopping for hobby supplies or to an auction, where you can pick up some great buys. Consider using your ability to work with your hands toward creating a viable consumer product.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't be too quick to jump to conclusions as you aren't likely to have all the facts. The truth will unfold. Put your efforts now into your own interests and financial future.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Open communication will be the key to staying in control of a dicey situation. Don't leave anything to chance.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Be prepared by taking action. Make your plans with family early so that you aren't disappointed. You can make a difference for those who can't make arrangements themselves.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't become frazzled. You can't possibly take on one more thing. If you calm down and focus, everything will fall into place. Use your ingenuity and stretch that dollar.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Avoid getting into heated discussions with officials. Observe, rather than participating in disputes at work. Everyone is stressed out, so it's important for you to keep calm.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your involvement in groups will be worthwhile, but choose carefully the charity or fund-raising group to which you contribute. Volunteer your assistance, not your cash.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will have to concentrate to surmount obstacles and accomplish anything. Expect your colleagues to slack off.

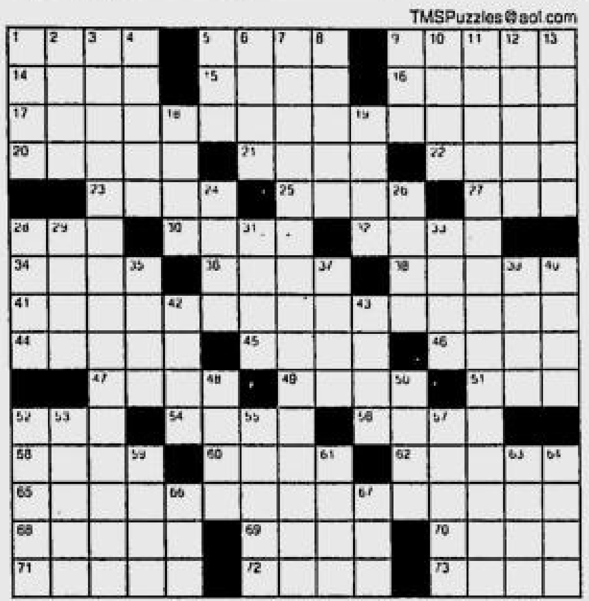
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Engage in conversations with clients and colleagues. You might meet new lovers or friends through work today. Business trips will be informative and adventurous, but avoid delays in shipments, travel or correspondence.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Think twice before being an impulse buyer and heading for the cash register. It's time to lock in a long-term investment so there's something left to put away.

Birthday Baby: Your winning smile and air of sophistication will open doors for you. You are thoughtful, kind, and know instinctively how you can help others.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

8/31/01

ACROSS
1 Type of IRA
5 Dry run
9 Stand of trees
14 Taj Mahal site
15 Guitar adjunct
16 Month in Paris?
17 High-end threesome
20 Pac. pact
21 Equal
22 Observed
23 Actress Ward
25 Faded and dull
27 987-65-4321 grp.
28 Spinoff of "Alice"
30 Whitney and Wallach
32 Cobbler's form
34 McKellen and Fleming
36 Kett of the comics
38 Dustin in "Midnight Cowboy"
41 High-end threesome
44 French school
45 Unmannerly
46 Keen on
47 Gumbo veggie
49 Just about
51 End of auction?
52 Stag party attendees
54 Fender flaw
56 Rendered fat
58 Chip in chips
60 God of war
62 Sedate
65 High-end threesome
68 Monsoons
69 Morales of "Bad Boys"
70 Kiddies
71 Edmonton player
72 Dispatched
73 Thwack

DOWN
1 Knocks
2 Beastly character
3 High-end threesome
4 Waste maker?
5 Fort Worth sch.
6 Lawman Wyatt
7 High-end threesome
8 Eiffel, for one
9 Small, low islet
10 Chooses
11 High-end threesome
12 Opposing teams
13 Actress Verdugo
18 One-and-only
19 Caspian's neighbor
24 One Baldwin
26 Trunk coverage
28 High-pitched flute
29 Secular
31 Roman way
33 Dress for Indira
35 Polio vaccine developer
37 Adjutant
39 Fill too much
40 Aroma
42 Nebbish
43 Close up
48 Objectives
50 Headstrong
52 Large: pref.
53 Zhou __
55 Thurmond and Archibald
57 Underground growth
59 Medieval slave
61 Flip through
63 Como __ Usted?
64 Take a break
66 Ukr. or Lith., once
67 Caboodle's partner?

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

D	A	W	N	■	C	O	M	I	C	■	S	M	O	G
O	L	I	O	■	H	Y	E	N	A	■	L	A	M	A
O	A	T	M	E	A	L	A	N	D	B	A	G	E	L
R	E	T	A	G	S	■	■	■	E	R	M	I	N	E
■	■	■	D	R	E	I	■	A	T	E	■	■	■	■
P	H	A	S	E	■	C	O	G	■	W	O	R	S	T
E	A	R	■	S	T	E	R	E	O	■	P	O	O	R
T	U	N	A	S	U	B	A	N	D	A	P	P	L	E
E	N	I	D	■	B	O	L	D	E	R	■	E	V	E
S	T	E	E	R	■	A	S	A	■	O	G	R	E	S
■	■	■	■	O	U	T	■	S	P	U	R	■	■	■
C	L	E	A	T	S	■	■	■	A	N	O	D	E	S
L	A	M	B	C	H	O	P	A	N	D	C	O	R	N
E	V	I	L	■	E	L	O	P	E	■	E	L	I	E
F	A	T	E	■	R	E	P	E	L	■	R	E	N	E

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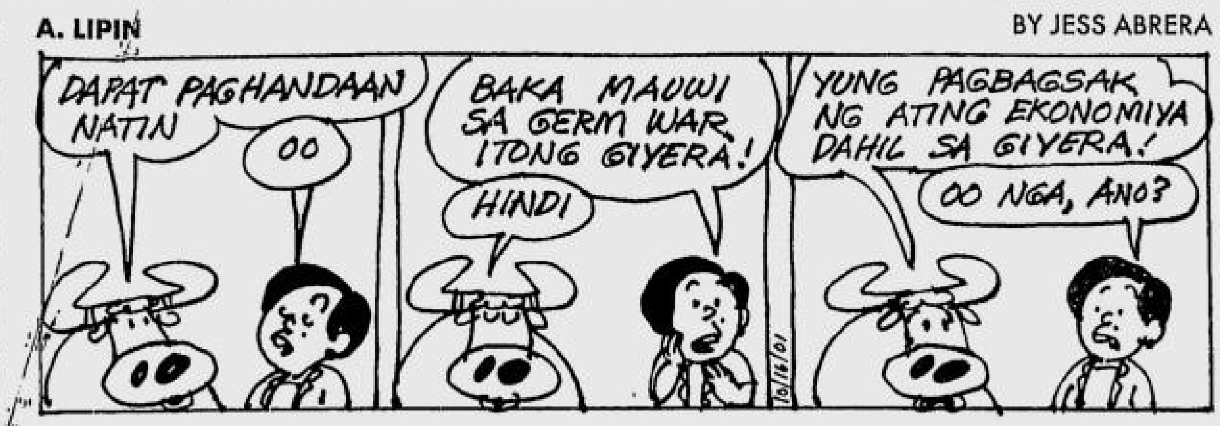
8/31/01

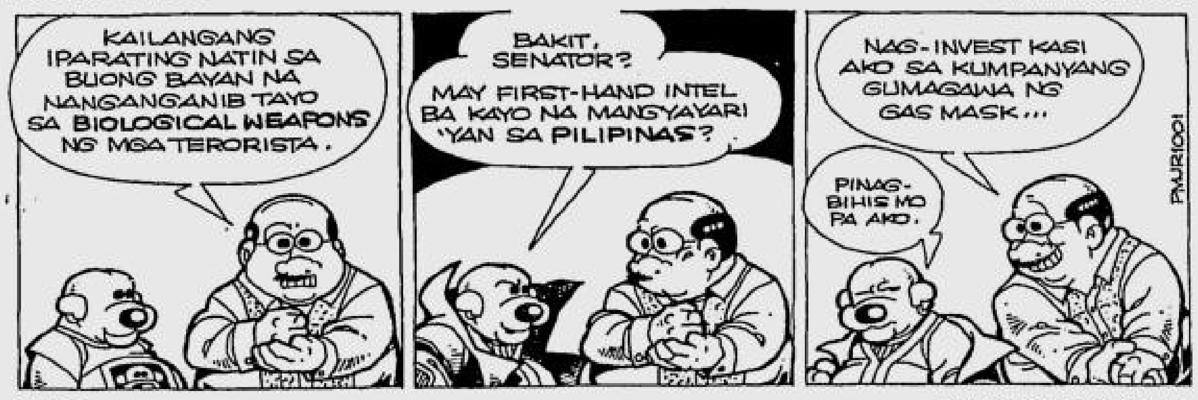
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


DAPAT PAGHANDAAN NATIN
OO
BAKA MAUWI SA GERM WAR ITONG GIYERA!
HINDI
YUNG PAGBAGSAK NG ATING EKONOMIYA DAHIL SA GIYERA!
OO NGA, ANO?
10/16/01

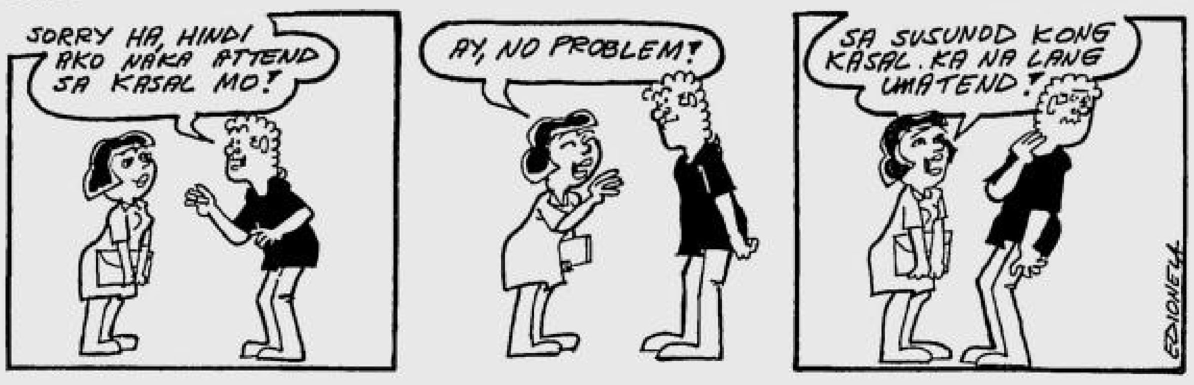
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


KAILANGANG IPARATING NATIN SA BUONG BAYAN NA NANGANGANIB TAYO SA BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS NG MGA TERORISTA.
BAKIT, SENATOR?
MAY FIRST-HAND INTEL BA KAYO NA MANGYAYARI 'YAN SA PILIPINAS?
NAG-INVEST KASI AKO SA KUMPANYANG GUMAGAWA NG GAS MASK...
PINAG-BIHIS MO PA AKO.
PMJR1001

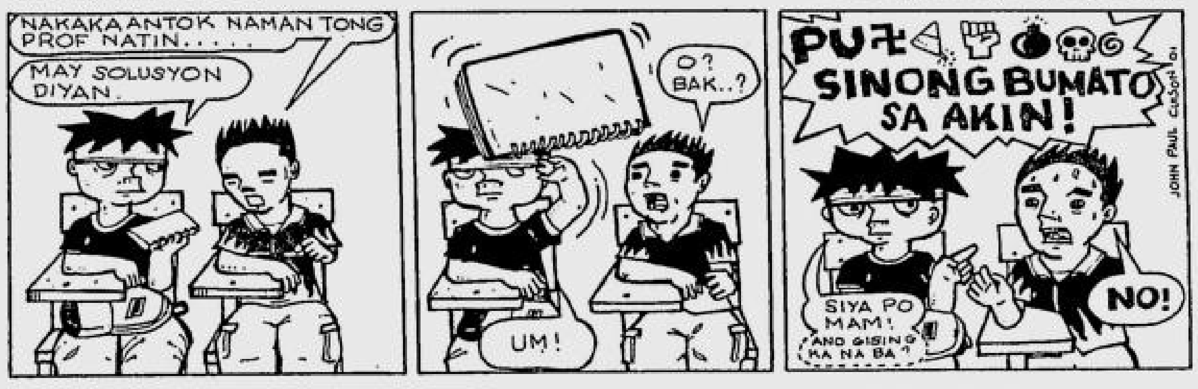
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


SORRY HA, HINDI AKO NAKA ATTEND SA KASAL MO!
AY, NO PROBLEM!
SA SUSUNOD KONG KASAL. KA NA LANG UMATEND!
EDIONELA

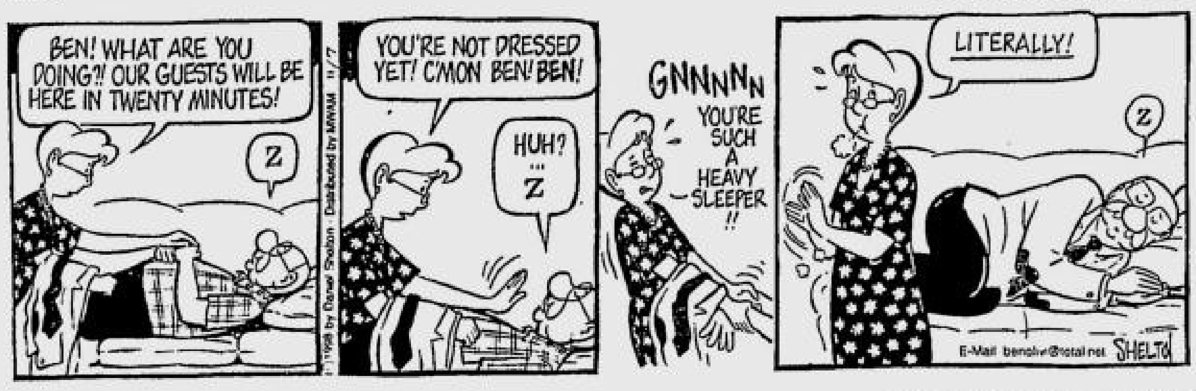
GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX


NAKAKAANTOK NAMAN TONG PROF NATIN.....
MAY SOLUSYON DIYAN.
O? BAK..?
UM!
PU7
SINONG BUMATO SA AKIN!
SIYA PO MAM!
ANG GISING KA NA BA?
NO!
JOHN PAUL CASON '01

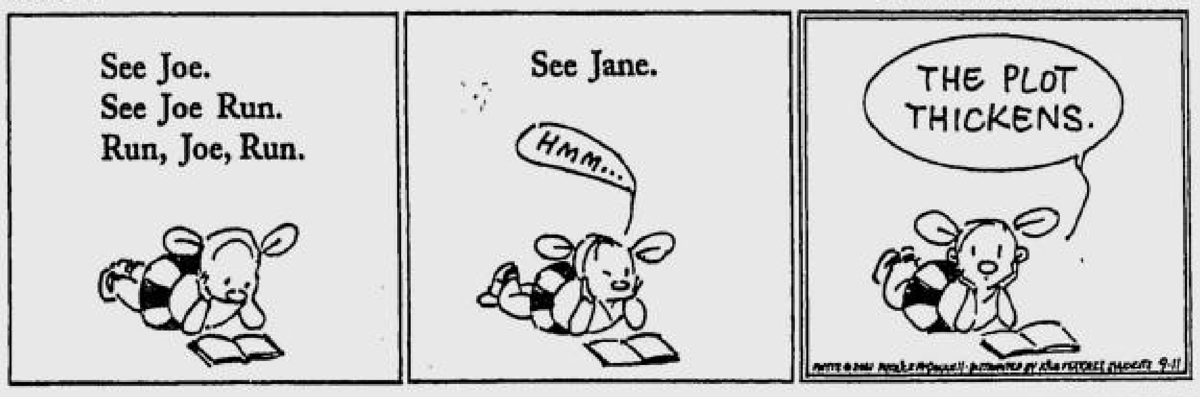
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


BEN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! OUR GUESTS WILL BE HERE IN TWENTY MINUTES!
Z
YOU'RE NOT DRESSED YET! C'MON BEN! BEN!
HUH? ... Z
GNNNNN
YOU'RE SUCH A HEAVY SLEEPER!!
LITERALLY!
Z
E-Mail benolive@total.net
SHELTON

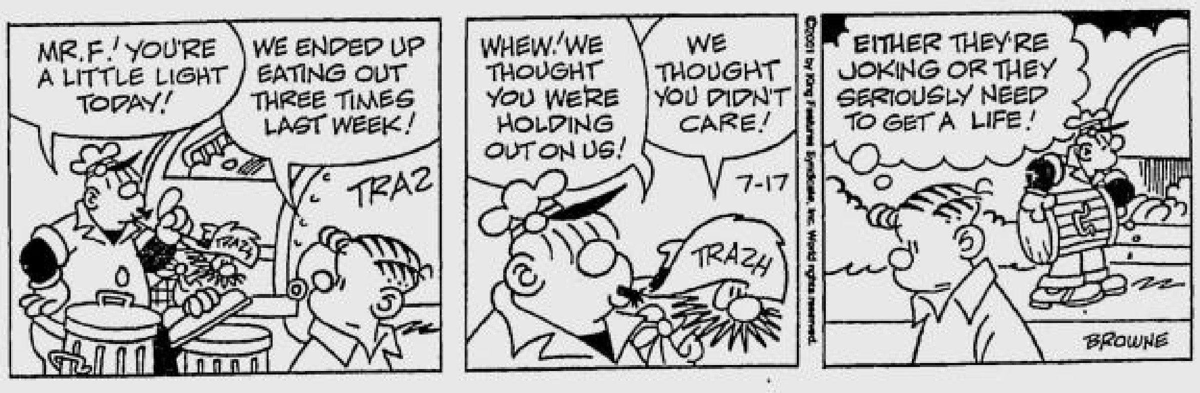
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


See Joe.
See Joe Run.
Run, Joe, Run.
See Jane.
HMM...
THE PLOT THICKENS.
9-11

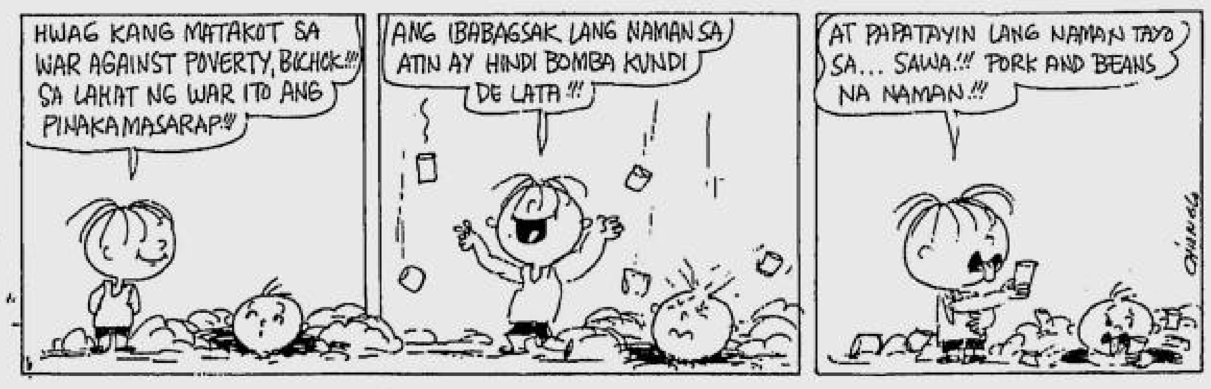
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


MR. F! YOU'RE A LITTLE LIGHT TODAY!
WE ENDED UP EATING OUT THREE TIMES LAST WEEK!
TRAZ
WHEW! WE THOUGHT YOU WERE HOLDING OUT ON US!
WE THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T CARE!
7-17
TRAZH
©2001 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
EITHER THEY'RE JOKING OR THEY SERIOUSLY NEED TO GET A LIFE!
BROWNE

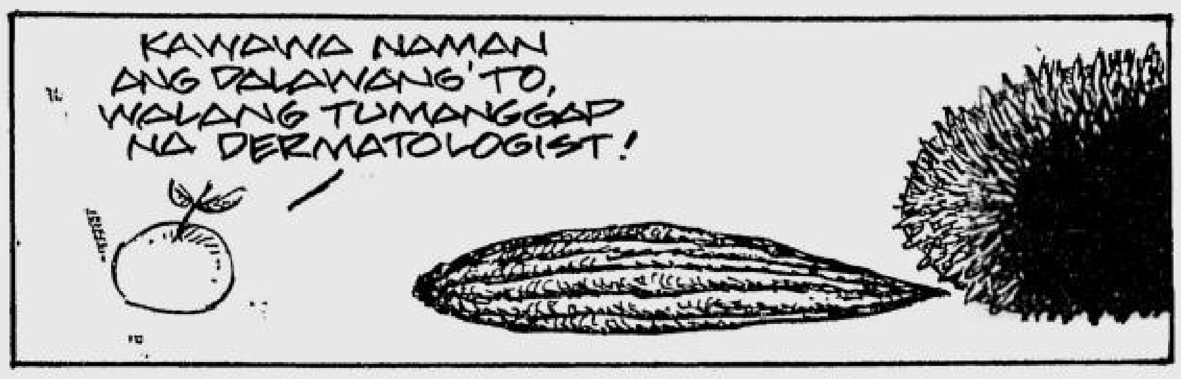
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


HWAG KANG MATAKOT SA WAR AGAINST POVERTY, BICHOK!!! SA LAHAT NG WAR ITO ANG PINAKAMASARAP!!!
ANG IBABAGSAK LANG NAMAN SA ATIN AY HINDI BOMBA KUNDI DE LATA!!!
AT PAPATAYIN LANG NAMAN TAYO SA... SAWA!!! PORK AND BEANS NA NAMAN!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


KAWAWA NAMAN ANG DALAWANG 'TO, WALANG TUMANGGAP NA DERMATOLOGIST!

MESSAGE

My warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Integrated Midwives Association of the Philippines (IMAP), Inc. on its 27th Annual Convention.

I commend your organization for your many contributions to the health and welfare of our countrymen. As one of the prime civic organizations involved in providing medical supervision to a great number of our people, your active partnership with our Administration in nation building ensures that many of our people's lives will be uplifted. I hope this event will serve as a venue to address issues and concerns crucial to your profession and to the improved delivery of basic health services in the country.

This year's theme, "Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges", reflects your association's commitment to enhance the professional competence of Filipino midwives in today's era of modernization. The services provided by organizations such as the Integrated Midwives Association of the Philippines, Inc. complement our government's health care programs and hasten our country's recovery efforts. May this convention renew your dedication in further improving your medical expertise so that you will be able to practice your profession with greater efficiency and effectiveness.

I enjoin all of you to continue with your commitment of rendering health care services with greater zeal and resolve. Let us work together in healing and rebuilding our country towards greater peace, progress and prosperity.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL- ARROYO
President of the Republic of the Philippines

MESSAGE

Greetings!

I send my warmest felicitations to the Integrated Midwives Association of the Philippines (IMAP), Incorporated as it holds its 27th Annual Convention on October 16-19, 2001 at the Olongapo Convention Center, Olongapo City.

Undoubtedly, midwives play a very crucial role in the country's healthcare delivery system. Not only do they work hard in farflung communities just to serve the health needs of the people but they also promote the immense benefits in preventive health care practices such as sanitation, immunization and pre-natal check-ups.

As the theme of this second assembly stresses, "Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges," this gathering indeed promises to bring to light new issues such as new technologies that are vital components of the midwifery profession. Ultimately, it is the people who stand to benefit from any added knowledge that midwives get from gatherings such as this.

Along with my unwavering support of your commendable undertakings, I enjoin you all to relentlessly pursue your notable goal of enhancing the role of midwives in our society. You truly deserve your mark in the medical profession and in the hearts of the people that you selflessly serve.

Congratulations to you all !!

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

FRANKLIN DRILON
Senate President

MESSAGE

My warmest greetings to the Integrated Midwives Association of the Philippines, Inc. on the occasion of your 27th Annual Convention.

Your theme " Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges" is very timely as we assert ourselves in this era of modernization. Indeed, your organization must overcome barriers that hinder the delivery of basic health care services to the larger segment of our population, even as you build bridges among your peers in your profession, and link arms with key players to hasten the achievement of our collective goal of a healthy and productive nation.

Midwives contribute immensely to government efforts in providing basic health care services to our countrymen by promoting the highest standards in the profession, your organization will lift the standard for succeeding generations who will be instrumental in fostering a more prosperous nation.

May this convention serve not only as venue for your members to learn innovations relative to their function as healthcare providers, but also as an occasion to strengthen their commitment to serve the Filipino people.

Mabuhay po kayong lahat!

JOSE DE VENECIA, JR.
Speaker of the House

MESSAGE

My warmest felicitations to all members of the Integrated Midwives Association of the Philippines (IMAP) as they hold their 27th Annual Convention in Olongapo City under the theme " Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges".

I am highly elated that the theme you have chosen for this gathering is in consonance with our present effort to evolve a much more efficient and effective system for delivery of basic services especially health services through partnership with local government units and the community.

Hence, as you gather for this yearly convention, it is my fervent hope that as an association, IMAP will be able to carry its objective of serving the marginalized sector of our society, and be part of the overall efforts to build a nation of peace, progress and economic stability.

God Bless & Mabuhay!

JOSE D. LINA, JR.
Secretary of Interior and Local Government

MESSAGE

My warmest congratulations to the officers and members of the Integrated Midwives Association of the Philippines, (IMAP) Inc. on the holding of their 27th Annual Convention on October 16-19, 2001 at Olongapo Convention Center, Olongapo City.

Being the premier organization of midwives in the country, IMAP plays a crucial role in ensuring the delivery of basic health services, especially maternal & child care, to both urban and rural areas in the country.

Upgrading your knowledge and skills will certainly go a long way in enhancing and reinforcing our health care system at the primary level. I hope that with your theme, "Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges", you will be able to fully extend your skills in bridging the gaps in health care among the communities that you have committed to serve.

The Department of Health extends its full support to all of your worthy endeavors. Let us work together to fulfill our vision of accessible, affordable, appropriate and quality health care for all Filipinos!

Mabuhay ang IMAP!

MANUEL DAYRIT, M.D., M.Sc.
Secretay of Health

Integrated Midwives Association of the Philippines, Inc.

27th Annual Convention
October 16 - 19, 2001
Olongapo City Convention Center, Olongapo City

Kimbies®

BREAKING BARRIERS, BUILDING BRIDGES

The Integrated Midwives Association of the Philippines (IMAP), Inc. is celebrating its 27th Annual Convention from October 16-20, 2001 at the Olongapo City Convention Center, Olongapo City. The conference theme this year, "Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges", is most appropriate as it allows midwives to reflect on how the midwifery profession can break barriers in achieving optimum health among women.

The yearly gathering of midwives has provided participants with a unique forum for the exchange of new knowledge, as well as a focus for celebrating midwifery as a specially privileged profession in its work at the beginning of life with women and their babies. From the onset, the Association believes that the health of women has a direct link on the health of the nation. Indeed central to the mission of IMAP, Inc. are the needs of women, newborn and families. It has been rightly said that "Without healthy women, we will not have healthy children, and without healthy children, we will not have healthy nations" (ICM 1996). Therefore it is only right that IMAP, Inc. should strive hard to equip midwives with appropriate knowledge, skills and attitudes to practice midwifery safely. This would also cover the professional and personal development of the members, promoting public awareness on safe motherhood, social responsibility and advocacy. For more than twenty years, IMAP, Inc. has been working with and gaining the support of local communities, as well as local and national leaders to involve midwives more closely in the health care reforms and in the development of national health policies. Therefore, opportunities are now present for judicious calls by midwives to have greater involvement in the future health care planning.

As an organization, IMAP's constitution has changed, but its goals and mode of action have remained remarkably stable, focused on promoting through strategically targeted action, the development of midwifery as a profession and through this, improved maternal and infant well being. It is also the commitment of IMAP, Inc. to continue to be at the forefront as it tackles major barriers involving the midwifery profession. With the active participation of its chapters in various parts of the country, it will remain a strong voice not only for the concerns of midwives, but for the common interest of women, babies and families.

Mabuhay!

27th IMAP ANNUAL CONVENTION: AN AUSPICIOUS EVENT

Kimberly Clark Philippines, Inc. congratulates the Integrated Midwives Association of the Philippines, Inc. for spearheading the 27th annual convention of the midwifery profession starting October 16 to 20, 2001 at Olongapo City Convention Center. This year's theme "Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges", manifests the unwavering commitment of IMAP, Inc. leadership to promote the health and well being of mothers and babies.

The management and staff of Kimberly-Clark Philippines, Inc. work in harmony with the midwives in the provision of quality maternity care, particularly for those women who live in poverty. Throughout its many years of partnership, KCPI collaborated with IMAP, Inc. to provide a scholarship program for deserving students wanting to pursue a course in midwifery. To date, KCPI graduate midwifery students numbered to form the safe motherhood program of IMAP, Inc. was also supported through provision of equipment utilized by at the IMAP Maternity Clinic. KCPI strongly supports the educational and informative health articles produced by IMAP, Inc. to ably assist women to maintain their own health and the health of their children and family.

Just like IMAP, Inc., the growth of KCPI as a company is a result of service-oriented program for consumers and a responsible and dynamic management who shall continue to link with IMAP, Inc. in strengthening the midwifery organization so that women's needs in childbearing may be better provided for, today and in the future.

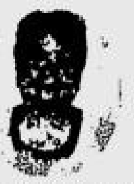
More power to IMAP, Inc. and God Bless!

Made possible through the support of:
Kimberly-Clark Philippines Inc.
Makers of KIMBIES® and HUGGIES® Diapers

National Officers

Alice Sanz de la Gente
President

Leonila G. Magcale
1st Vice President



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2nd Vice President

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Secretary

Sarah M. de Leon
Asst. Secretary

Perseveranda B. Montoya
Treasurer

Ellen V. Casapao
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Board of Director

Lolita I. Dicang
Board of Director

Zosima N. Panganiban
Board of Director

Editha M. Encarnacion
Board of Director

PROGRAM

15 October - Monday

2:00 p.m.	Courtesy Call of IMAP National Officers to Local Government Officials of Olongapo City
4:00	REGISTRATION (Open)
6:00	Ecumenical Service (at the Venue)

16 October - Tuesday

7:00	Foot Parade
8:00	REGISTRATION (Open) Opening of Booths and Exhibits Sportsfest
1:00-5:00 p.m.	Get Together of BCHS & BSCH Graduates Sharing Experiences Guest of Honor: Speaker Jose C. de Venecia, Jr.
5:00-8:00	Fellowship Night - Sponsor: NESTLE Phils. Awarding of Outstanding Midwives in Project ABCC Awarding of Winners for "What Makes A Midwife Unique" Contest

17 October - Wednesday

8:00-10:00 a.m.	**Opening Ceremony** Guest of Honor and Speaker: Dr. Manuel M. Dayrit, Secretary of Health Keynote Speaker: Hon. Jose D. Lina, Jr. Secretary, DILG
10:00-12:00	Awarding of Ten (10) Johnson & Johnson Outstanding Midwives of the Philippines for 2001
1:00-5:00 p.m.	**Lectures - I. Midwifery Education**
1:30-2:30	Plenary Topic: "Living, Positioning & Shaping Midwifery Through Education" Dr. Benjamin G. Tayabas, President, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila
2:30-3:00	Sub Topics 1. "The Associate of Science in Health Education" Dean Marco Antonio Sto. Tomas President, Association of Philippine Schools of Midwifery
3:00-3:30	2. "The Three (3) year Midwifery Program" Ms. Jasmin Garcia Principal IMAP Foundation School of Midwifery
3:30-4:00	3. "The BCHS Program: A Midwife Quest for Excellence" Prof. Nilo Capangpangan Director, Institute of Community Health Service & Midwifery Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila
5:00-7:00	Search for the Singing Midwife 2001 Sponsor: WYETH Phils.
7:00-9:00	Chapter Presidents Meeting & Planning Workshop Sponsor: KIMBERLY CLARK Phils.

18 October - Thursday

8:00-10:00	Business Meeting - Ms. Alice Sanz de la Gente National President, IMAP, Inc. Presiding Officer
10:00-(open)	Election of Officers - Mrs. Fe B. Sause Chairman, COMELEC
10:30-11:00	Lecture on: "The Contraceptive Pill with a Difference" Dr. Sylvia Santos Medical Adviser Organon Phils. Inc.
1:00-5:00 p.m.	**Scientific Lectures - II. Midwifery Practice**
1:00-2:00	Plenary Topic: "Management of Complications in Pregnancy and Childbirth" Dr. Rebecca Ramos Consultant, WHO
2:00-2:30	Sub Topics: 1. "Hypertension during Pregnancy, Labor and After Childbirth" Dr. Corazon Y. Almirante President, Fetus as a Patient Institute PCMC, Manila
2:30-3:00	2. "Infection During Pregnancy, Delivery and Puerperium" Dr. Ma. Socorro Mendoza Solis Faculty, Far Eastern University, N.R.M.F. Institute of Medicine
3:00-3:30	3. "Bleeding After Childbirth" Dr. Ruth G. Gutierrez Faculty, UST College of Medicine
3:30-4:00	4. "Compliance for a Successful Family Planning Program" Dr. Virgilio Oblepias Medical Center Manila
6:00-9:00	Coronation of Miss IMAP 2001 and Folk Dance Competition Sponsor:PHARMACIA

19 October - Friday

8:00-12:00 a.m.	**Lectures - III. Organization**
8:00-9:00	Plenary Topic: "Leaders: The Link to Empowerment" Ms. Meliha N. Montenegro Managing Consultant Northstar Management Resources
9:00-9:30	Sub Topics: 1. "Professional and Moral Values" Rev. Fr. Juan Pastor Parish Priest, San Narciso, Zambales
9:30-10:00	2. "The Missing Link in Reproductive Health Care" Ms. Jamby Abad Santos Madrigal Chairperson, Samahang Kakampi Foundation, Inc.
10:00-10:30	3. "Preventive Osteoporosis" Dr. Lyndon John Llamado Faculty, College of Medicine & Surgery University of Sto. Tomas
10:30-11:00	4. "Issues and Concerns in Midwifery" Ms. Alice Sanz De la Gente President, IMAP, Inc.
1:00-3:00 p.m.	Awarding Ceremony • Loyalty Service Award • Awarding of Outstanding Chapter • Awarding of Outstanding Chapter President • Awarding of Outstanding Treasurer
3:00-5:00	BINGO SOCIALS Sponsor: MEAD JOHNSON Phils., Inc.
6:00-9:00	Variety Show/Ballroom Dancing Sponsor: MEAD JOHNSON Phils., Inc. GRAND RAFFLE DRAW CLOSING CEREMONIES FAREWELL FORMALITIES

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Why you don't get results from your workout

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Aboitiz Juan

FITNESS industry statistics show that the longest time the average person works out in a fitness center before quitting is six months. While lack of time is often given as the top reason for giving up, a close second is the absence of visible results. The main reason most people start exercising is that they want to lose weight or look better. It can be very demoralizing to work out for several months and not see any significant changes in one's body. However, this doesn't have to be the case. It is possible to get 100 percent results from one's gym or aerobic workout, but many don't, because they make the following mistakes.

Mistaking quantity for quality

Thirty minutes of walking on a treadmill can be 30 minutes of quality exercise time or 30 minutes of your body just occupying space on top of a sophisticated machine. There is a big difference between walking mindlessly as you chitchat with the person on the next treadmill and walking with a purpose, challenging your aerobic capacity to the safest highest intensity that you can. Twelve repetitions of abdominal crunches done properly are more effective than 50 repetitions done haphazardly. If you want the best results from your workout, make every minute and every repetition count.

In denial

Experts say many people are in denial about their exercise frequency and dietary habits. Most people will overestimate the amount of exercise they do and underestimate the amount of food they eat. If weight loss is the goal, this state of denial will eventually lead to frustration. The person may "feel sorry" for himself. After all, they think they are working out so hard, denying themselves food and still not exercising enough and are actually eating too much. Keeping an exercise logbook and a food diary are effective ways to curb this perception. Record-keeping will show you in black-and-white what is really going on.

Inappropriate program

The type of workout you do will determine the kind of results you will get from exercising. For example, the aerobics portion of an exercise class will increase stamina, improve efficiency of the heart and burn a large amount of calories, but it will not significantly shape and sculpt the muscles. Resistance exercise (lifting weights) is a better choice for that goal. Frustration can easily develop when people expect specific results from a type of workout that is not for them.

Sloppy technique

Exercise technique is a skill that has to be learned just like a sport. Sloppy technique in golf and tennis will never win you a championship, and sloppy exercise technique will never get you 100 percent results either. Pay close attention to proper exercise form whether on cardiovascular machines like treadmills, bikes and steppers, during aerobic classes, lifting weights or stretching. Concentrate on what your muscles are doing rather than discussing the latest gossip with your friends at the gym. When lifting weights, do your small talk in between sets rather than during the actual lifting process. Control the way you move your arms and legs during aerobics—really feel each move rather than just flinging your limbs in every direction.

Lack of knowledge

Unfortunately, many people fail in their workouts due to lack of assistance from exercise instructors. "Practice makes perfect" is not true when you are practicing a wrong exercise technique! It just makes matters worse by reinforcing the wrong neuromuscular patterns. To quote Tom Purvis, exercise expert and owner of Focus on Fitness in Oklahoma City, "It's not what you do, it's how you do it!" Educate yourself, keep up with the latest in exercise science and seek professional help.

> Many people pay the full price for a product and get only 50 percent of the benefits because they make the following mistakes

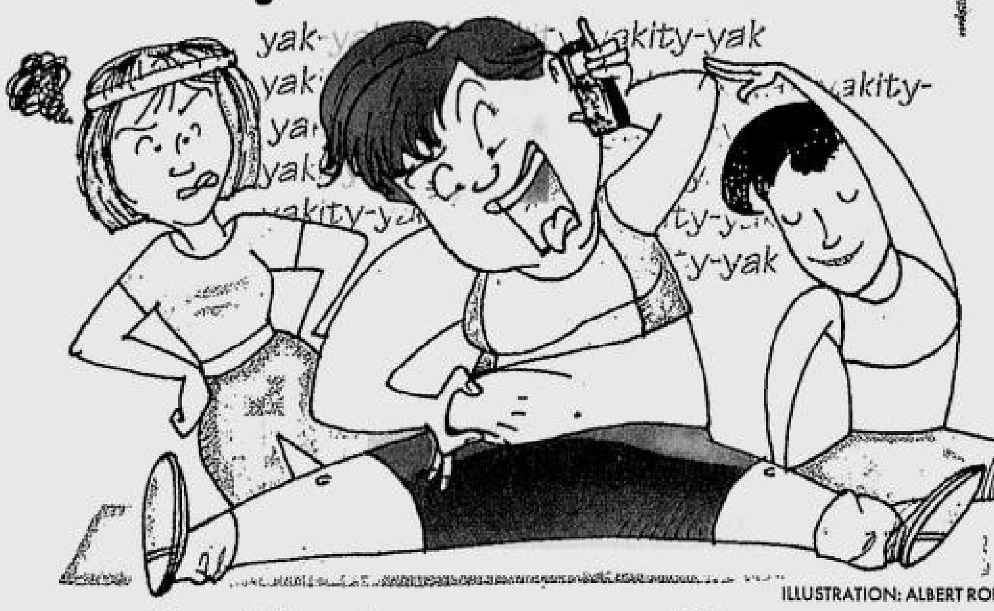

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Unrealistic goals

If you push yourself too hard, you can be injured, get burned out and lose all your desire to exercise. On the other hand, if you don't push yourself hard enough, you won't get enough out of your workout. After a while, disappointment sets in. People lose motivation when they cannot achieve their goals, especially if they are unrealistic ones. An example is desiring to become as thin as Kate Moss when you have a big-boned stocky frame. We all need to work within our genetic limits. Another example of an unrealistic goal is wanting to get fit in one month when you have been inactive for the last 10 years. Significant changes will not happen overnight.

Negative self-talk

It's amazing how we can be our worst enemies. We all have a "committee of critics" in our minds that tell us "you are so out of shape," "why bother exercising," "your thighs are so unattractive." A negative attitude toward our bodies and toward exercise will only result in half-hearted attempts to exercise. Tell the "committee" to shut up! Choose to say only positive things to yourself. Say things like "my body is getting shapelier," "I have more stamina," and "I am getting better by the day."

Doing same workout

At some point in time, your body will become quite efficient in whatever exercise you started with. One way of overcoming this plateau is to change the variables of your program. If you are lifting weights, you may want to increase the repetitions, increase the sets or change the type of exercise. If you are doing a cardiovascular workout on a treadmill, you may want to include some sessions on the stationary bike or stepper or even join some aerobic classes. The point here is to change your exercise routine from time to time, so your body is constantly challenged and you do not get bored.

Stop wasting time

Nobody in his/her right mind would want to pay the full price for a product and get only 50 percent of the benefits. But that is exactly what many people do to themselves when they work out. To avoid this, follow the tips above. Stop wasting time and money. You owe it to yourself to give 100 percent of your effort to get 100 percent results.

Write the author at PDI Lifestyle or e-mail fitness@ibm.net

Insurance execs' cool celebration

THE AYALA Life Group chill out on the ice.

THE AYALA Life Group recently discovered a fun new way of honoring its top achievers when it recently held its team-building activity at the SM Megamall's Ice Skating Rink.

This was the first time the activity, which capped its three-day Mid-Year Convention and Achievers Conference, was held at the rink.

Anthony Parungao, Ayala Life's marketing director, said that after all these years, the group realized "there was something that we hadn't done yet, and that's ice skating!"

And true to form, they came, they skated, and they conquered.

It was the first time on ice for many, but they gamely took on the challenge. After a basic off-ice session by the rink's coaches, they participated in glider races, glider relay games, and rapid fire shooting using hockey sticks.

"We totally enjoyed it," says Parungao. "The achievement for most of us was being able to stand on the ice and not fall." In fact, "the group had so much fun that those of us who initially refused to skate couldn't help but join the rest."

The Ayala team-building activity was part of the SM Ice Skating Rink's party packages. Birthdays, reunions, fundraisers, school affairs or any kind of event can be celebrated at the rink.

There are three choices of party packages for 10, 20 and 30 skaters, respectively. All packages are packed with unlimited ice time, surprises, free use of skates and lockers. If you're not a pro on blades, there are coaches to assist you. Completing the package are great food and cool party favors from Grand Slam Sports Bar and Café.

READY, get set, glide!

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Filipino hairstylists to compete in Bangkok

THREE Filipino hairstylists will compete with more than 200 of Asia-Pacific's best in the "Pantene Hair Asia Pacific (PHAP) 2001," which will be held in Bangkok from Oct. 22-24.

Organized by Procter & Gamble Trading (Thailand) Ltd., POSH Consulting Ltd. and the Sri Lankan Association of Hairdressers and Beauticians, the "PHAP 2001" offers prizes totaling more than 250,000 baht, equivalent to around $6,000 or P300,000.

Sponsored by Pantene Phils., the Philippine contingent is composed of Filipino hair and makeup artists Reynaldo P. Mercado, Danny A. Katalbas and Gloria R. Katipunan, and the multiawarded Aurora Atienza who will be among the judges.

The vice president of Hairdressers and Cosmetologists Association of the Phils. (Hacap) and director and manager of the Jun L. Encarnacion Salon, Atienza has served as a judge in hairstyling and makeup competitions in Korea, Thailand, Malaysia and Hong Kong.

Mercado, 39, is a Hong Kong-trained professional hairdresser who has topped similar competitions and served as official makeup artist of prestigious local and international events, including Miss Universe '94, Miss Asia Pacific '88 and Supermodel '88.

Katalbas, 36, has been reaping local and international awards, including the overall championship of the 1998 Hairdresser Day Competition, Hacap's 1997 Hairdresser and Makeup Competition, 1993 Hair Asia Competition and the 1991 World Competition.

Katipunan has been Hacap secretary since 1998 and was overall champion in the professional division of the Hair and Makeup Trends in Manila last year and the Queen's Cup 6th Hair World Festival in Bangkok, Thailand in 1999.

They will compete in four of the PHAP's six categories: Ladies Haircut and Blow Dry, Ladies Evening Hairstyle, Bridal Makeup and Fantasy Hairstyle. The two other categories are Nail Art, and Gents Haircut and Blow Dry.

Now on its fifth year, the PHAP will include seminars and exhibitions to be conducted by world-renowned experts in medical research, product development and hair and skin care.

The event will start with a welcome dinner for all foreign contestants and media on Oct. 22. The following day, the Pantene hair forum will be held, with skin and hair expert Dr. John Gray of London speaking on "What is Hair?"; Dutch Hairdresser of the Year 2000 and 2001 Andy Uffels on "Hair Language" and Oxford University and Hospital consultant dermatologist Dr. Rodney Dawber on "Hair Diversity."

The competitions will start on Oct. 24 and will be capped by a gala dinner, award ceremony and a hair fashion show by Uffels.

OFF TO BANGKOK. Members of the Philippine contingent pose for a souvenir shot shortly before leaving for Bangkok. From left, Chit Itchon, P&G senior manager for external relations; hairstylists Gloria Katipunan, Danny Katalbas and Reynaldo Mercado; Vicky Estrada, HACAP vice president for external afairs, and Aurora Atienza, one of the tilt's judges.